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### REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

*A New Spirit of the Age.* Edited by R. H. Horne, Author of "Orion," "Gregory VII," &c. &c. 2 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.

We are not sure that we exactly comprehend the import of this brief title, "*A New Spirit of the Age*;" and we looked to the advertisement for an explanation. But if we stumbled on the threshold, we fell down on the second step; for there the work is announced to contain "critical essays and biographical sketches of literary and other eminent characters of the present time," of which the words we have put in italics induced us to fancy that a series of essays of eminent, &c. persons were here edited by the author of "Orion" putting his belt round them. But "there is no such thing," the publication is intrinsically Mr. Horne's own, and one friend or two has contributed a little towards its manipulation. All, therefore, that we learn is, that a Spirit of the Age is neither British Brandy nor a Hammersmith Ghost; but *bona fide* a series of criticisms (reviews, as it were, taken out of our and our periodical contemporaries' hands) upon the writings of Ainsworth, Banim, Bulwer, Carlyle, Dickens, Fonblanche, Mrs. Gore, Hood, Hook, the Howitts, James, Mrs. Jameson, Knowles, Lover, Macaulay, Martineau, M. Milnes, Punch, Dr. Pusey, Mrs. Shelley, Talfourd, Taylor, Tennyson, Trollope, Wordsworth, and others. We have only another preliminary to notice before we enter into our principal task, viz., a passage in the preface, where we read, "the editor, before commencing this labour, confesses to the weakness of having deliberated with himself a good half hour as to whether he should 'try to please everybody'; but the result was that he determined to try and please one person only: it may seem a bad thing to acknowledge, but that one was himself." Upon which all we have to say is, that we hope he has succeeded, as indeed from the tone and tenor of his remarks he appears to have done to the utmost, so as to give himself entire satisfaction, whilst he has only given us a modicum. So different are the views which different people take of the same things; but as the old ladies truly say, there is no accounting for tastes!

But now, coming to the body of the New Spirit, we have to acknowledge that we sometimes as cordially agree with Mr. Horne as at other times we differ from him. His opinions, though too often involved in the sort of critical jargon which has become a language with a school of highly clouded, mystical, and metaphysical pretenders, are not always to be despised as wanting in acumen or justice; — and though the straining after an elevation even above the region of imaginative gas — the absence of all perceptions of, or power over, the humorous — the presence of a disappointed dramatic feeling — and other defects, mark the volumes throughout, there is yet much in them to interest the literary circles and afford no mean idea of the talent of the writer. Of these points we shall state instances as we go along, skirting the page.

The Spirit first takes up the most popular man of the day, Charles Dickens, of whom

we are told (in the "Jargon" alluded to)— "He is like Scott and Fielding in the *fleshy solidity*, costume, and completeness, of his *external portraiture*." Mr. D. is then compared with Hogarth and De Foe, and declared to be "manifestly the product of his age — a genuine emanation from its aggregate and entire spirit"—which we seem to understand, but neither in the aggregate nor entirely. We are further informed that — "Mr. Dickens is, in private, very much what might be expected from his works,—by no means an invariable coincidence. He talks much or little according to his sympathies. His conversation is genial. He hates argument; in fact, he is unable to argue—a common case with impulsive characters who see the whole truth, and feel it crowding and struggling at once for immediate utterance. He never talks for effect, but for the truth or for the fun of the thing. He tells a story admirably, and generally with humorous exaggerations. His sympathies are of the broadest, and his literary tastes appreciate all excellence. He is a great admirer of the poetry of Tennyson. Mr. Dickens has singular personal activity, and is fond of games of practical skill. He is also a great walker, and very much given to dancing Sir Roger de Coverley. In private, the general impression of him is that of a first-rate practical intellect, with 'no nonsense' about him. Seldom, if ever, has any man been more beloved by contemporary authors, and by the public of his time. His portrait in the present work is extremely like him."

It is *not* very like him, but rather more so than the foregoing description, in the traits of which we can no more see that it is "what might be expected from his writings," than we can fly in the air and take hold (instead of Mr. Horne) of a horn of the moon. How inconsistent is this style of writing! A person never talks for effect, but tells stories with humorous exaggerations—he paints Bill Sykes, and is a great admirer of the poetry of Tennyson—he is much given to dancing Sir Roger de Coverley, and has drawn little Nelly, Oliver Twist, and Smike—and, strangest of all to note, "he talks much or little according to his sympathies! which are of the broadest!" We ask ourselves, what is the meaning of all this stuff and potter? Surely if Boz has no nonsense about him, Mr. Horne has.

His next movement is to pour out the vials of his wrath upon Thomas Ingoldsby, one of the most original and entertaining writers, and one of the most curious as well as tuneful versifiers of the day (in the former equal to Butler, in the latter to Pope)—none of which and other rare merits can the *New Spirit of the Age* detect; but, simply because Ingoldsby in turning whimsical old legends into the most amusing of rhymes and exposing their follies (the follies of former ages) does not display the "sincere passion" required by the Horne-book School, though utterly uncongenial with his themes, he is denounced as a sort of printing-devil in disguise, without refinement and untouched by *idealitY*!!!

Mr. Savage Landor is criticised in a manner agreeable to the foregoing notions. He is de-

termined, unlike Dickens, to be "not at all the product of the present age," and "scarcely to belong to it;" so that we may safely leave him in the hands of Mr. Horne and Prince Posternity. The Howitts furnish a mere biographical sketch; and Dr. Pusey is said to be "the representative of that class of Englishmen who, looking with reprehension and alarm upon the changes in the ecclesiastical and political system of our country which have slowly but constantly gained ground during the lapse of the last fifteen years, have ranged themselves under the freshly emblazoned banners and newly illuminated altars of the church, have unsheathed the sword of faith and new interpretation, earnest to restore the ancient constitution in church and state; to stem the advancing tide of modern opinion and endeavour; to retain the stronghold of the divine right of kings and the spiritual supremacy of the priesthood, and from this detached ground to say to the rising waves, 'Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther,' and to the troubled waters, 'Peace,—be still!'" To us, this seems to be almost the opposite of what Dr. Pusey would say of himself and his objects; but we do not like to meddle with such questions. Mr. Horne next takes up a bunch of novelists; James, Gore, Marryatt, and Trollope; and on the general matter observes, that prose fiction "is no longer a mere fantasy of the imagination, a dreamy pageant of unintelligible sentiments and impossible incidents; but a sensible book, insinuating in an exceedingly agreeable form—just as cunning physicians insinuate noxious drugs in sweet disguises—a great deal of useful knowledge, historical, social, and moral. Most people are too lazy to go to the spring-head, and are well content to drink from any of the numerous little rills that happen to ripple close at hand: and thus, by degrees, the whole surface becomes fertilised after a fashion, and by a remarkably easy and unconscious process. Formerly, a novel was a laborious pretext for saying a wonderful variety of fine silly things; now, it is really a channel for conveying actual information, the direct result of observation and research, put together with more or less artistic ingenuity, but always keeping in view the responsibility due to the living humanity from which it professes to be drawn." We are no detractors from the deserts of our contemporaries, but we really cannot compliment them at this rate, and at the expense of the "fine silly things" written before their time by Richardson, Fielding, and Smollet. In short, we have fancied that we received a great insight into human nature, much pleasure from able and living pictures of men and manners, and considerable instruction in almost every possible way, from these drivelling nobodies. With regard to Mr. James, though he is allowed a few admirable qualities, he is accused of being "voluminous," and of "fatal facility" because he employs an amanuensis.

Of Mrs. Gore we learn:—"It is well known in the literary circles that Mrs. Gore is the author of that clever, but surpassingly impudent book, 'Cecil.' We believe she has never avowed it, and has rather, on the contrary, kept up a little mystification about it. But

there is really no doubt on the subject. She wrote the story, and Mr. Beckford helped her to the learning. The public have been often perplexed by Mrs. Gore's Greek and Latin, which, although they were never paraded so impertinently as the polyglott pretensions of Lady Morgan, were still remote enough from the ordinary course of female accomplishments to startle the public. Where they came from on former occasions we know not; but in this instance they may be referred to Mr. Beckford, together with the still more recondite scraps of far-off tongues that are scattered through the work. 'Cecil' is a perfect representation of the worst, but certainly the most dazzling, aspect of Mrs. Gore's genius." And "if we wanted a complete contrast to Mrs. Gore, we have it at hand in Mrs. Trollope. The class to which she belongs is, fortunately, very small; but it will always be recruited from the ranks of the unscrupulous, so long as a corrupt taste is likely to yield a trifling profit. She owes everything to that audacious contempt of public opinion, which is the distinguishing mark of persons who are said to stick at nothing. Nothing but this sticking at nothing could have produced some of the books she has written, in which her wonderful impurity of face is so remarkable. Her constitutional coarseness is the natural element of a low popularity, and is sure to pass for cleverness, shrewdness, and strength, where cultivated judgment and chaste inspiration would be thrown away. Her books of travel are crowded with plebeian criticisms on works of art and the usages of courts, and are doubtless held in great esteem by her admirers, who love to see such things overhauled and dragged down to their own level."—Tolerably abusive of a lady-author: eh?

To Capt. Marryatt more justice is done; and about quite as much to Sergeant Talfourd.

Of Mr. M. Milnes, from whose pen another volume of poems has just reached us, and will receive our own observation, Mr. Horne says: "Mr. Milnes does not appear to possess the least dramatic passion, nor does he display much impulse or energy in his poetry. There is no momentum in the progress of his lines; and the want is conspicuously betrayed in his blank verse, because, of all other forms, that is the one which absolutely requires the most genuine, thought-sustained, and unflagging energies. We are almost tempted to hazard the opinion that fine blank verse requires great material stamina; in fact, a powerful internal physique, to carry on the burthen and purpose of the soul. We think that the psychological history of nearly every one of our great poets who wrote in blank verse will bear us out in the opinion. Several exceptions are undoubtedly against this; and the greatest of them would be Keats; yet here the exception would tend to prove the rule, as he died soon after the production of his only poem in blank verse, which is, moreover, unfinished. How far this latter speculation—which, indeed, may be of no sound value—would be applicable or inapplicable to the poet at present under discussion, need not be considered, because he seldom writes in blank verse; he is essentially a lyrical poet; but to his occasionally attempting the former may be attributed some of the accusations of want of passion and impulsive energies."—Mr. Milnes, "regarding poetry as 'the gods' most choicest dower," says of it, in his 'Leucas,'—

"Poesy, which in chaste repose abides,  
As in its atmosphere; that placid flower  
Thou hast exposed to passion's fiery tides," &c.

Here, at once, we discover Mr. Milnes' theory, and the chief aim of his muse. Sappho is blamed for steeping her verse in 'passion's fiery tides,' because poesy is said to abide 'in chaste repose,' as its proper atmosphere. By this standard, then, is the poetry of Richard Monckton Milnes to be measured; it is a standard of inherent beauty; and he will be found to attain it most completely." There is much truth in the foregoing and in the following remark: "It is observable that very dull men and men incapable of wit—either in themselves, or of the comprehension of it in others—inevitably call every witty man, and every witty saying, which is not quite agreeable to themselves, by the term flippant. Let the wits and humorists be consoled; they have the best of it, and the dull ones know it."

To be sure they do, and they despise the vision of the very dull dogs who cannot perceive that a deep water may also be clear, bright, and sparkling—no, they must have it muddy, opaque, and heavy, like their own brains, or else they fancy it as shallow as what trickles from that miserably dripping source. Not so does Mr. Horne estimate our gay contemporary *Punch*, as "the permanent existence and extensive success of such a periodical is one of the most striking and encouraging features of the age." So be it; and *Punch* for ever!

A chapter on the minor dramatists places their influence on popular feelings in a stronger light than we are accustomed to view it; but, as we think, a light in which it ought to be held. To the extraordinary efforts of Mr. Macready to restore, and sacrifices to uphold, the drama, a well-merited tribute is paid, and Mr. H. proceeds:—

"Mr. Macready must have had a most feverish seat of power, and a most troublesome and thankless reign. The bad success here which caused him to make a trip to America, has very possibly been the saving of his life and health, and may be regarded as a gratulatory result by everybody, since everybody must look forward with interest to his career, which will probably be renewed in this country by fresh 'revivals' of Shakspeare in one of the smaller theatres."—To this is added: "He has great energies of action, and a morbid will. He has a limited imagination, with a large ambition. His imagination is slow and dull of vision, but quick and sensitive to feel. It, therefore, continually misleads him beyond retreat. For this reason, his hasty judgments are always wrong, and his slow judgments futile from exhausted impulses. In these respects he has been much assisted by Mr. Serle. It is evidently the opinion of this gentleman that a cold dispassionate judgment is the only popular test of excited imaginations. His advice, therefore, is always judicious, and ineffectual. But it is quite a mistake to suppose that Mr. Macready is misled by the advice of friends."

We transcribe this quotation simply to shew how much nonsense may be contained in a few words. The following on the main subject of the national drama is of a very different kind:

"That the good management of a theatre requires the power to be vested in one man, is no doubt true; and perhaps—when we look at the discordant and conflicting talents, vanities, and interests, all in vigorous motion—his power should be almost despotic. But how far it is good for such management to be vested in a principal actor, in full possession of his acting faculties, is another question. Instead of enlarging the sphere of the drama, he is sure to narrow it to his own exclusive standard. Instead of rendering it universal, he will make it

particular. Instead of a reflexion of humanity, it will become the pampered image of an individual. 'I cannot see myself in this part,' is a favourite expression of Mr. Farren's when he does not like a new play; and may be taken as a general characteristic of all the stars.' The stars, however, are disappearing, and with them the long suite of their retainers, the scenery-mongers, decorators, restorers, tailors, antiquarians, upholsterers, who have had their day. Capitalists have backed them with unbounded wealth; experience has lent them all her aid; trickery all her cunning; puffery all her placcards, bills, paragraphs, and the getting up of 'stories'; the press all its hundred tongues, telling of their nightly doings—besides the special tongues in cases where a public organ has been a private engine—and what has been the result? Bankruptcies, failures, dispersions, flights, half salaries, no salaries, farewell dinners, debts, prisons,—and fresh candidates for the fatal seat. The fresh candidate, who in most cases is a fine old hand at a failure, usually finds a fresh capitalist to back him. 'He is a man of such practical experience!' says the capitalist. Mooncalf! of what is his experience? Are not the practical results of all his efforts precisely of a kind to make every capitalist in his rational senses start back from his disastrous 'experience'? But there is also another peculiarity attached to a managerial leaseholder. He pays people if he can; if he cannot, he laughs in their faces. Anybody else would be arrested, or knocked down, or something. He stands in a sporting attitude; and nothing happens to him! Every now and then, when a dashing, speculating sort of 'man about town' finds himself totally without money, and does not know what in the world to do next, he says to himself,—"Damme! I'll take a theatre!" Very likely he will find backers with money as soon as he has taken it; in any case, the proprietors are all too happy to let him the house. He invariably fails. Some are paid, many not. Who cares? That dashing speculator is not a scamp, 'bless your heart,'—but an excellent good fellow. He has such enterprise in him!—such experience! Why, the impudent rogue absolutely risked nothing—he had nothing to risk! Oh, but he has such enterprise! And thus with two unexamined catch-words—enterprise and experience—the proprietors of theatres, and the poor mooncalf capitalist, delude and injure themselves and the public. How totally inapplicable to Mr. Macready must be any of the preceding remarks, with reference to pecuniary dealings, need not be repeated."

Banim and the Irish novelists, Carleton, Mrs. Hall, Miss Edgeworth, Lever, Lover, &c., attract us next; but as the last mentioned is now about to be more prominently than ever before the public, embodying, and *viva voce* expounding, the characteristics and music of his country, in a manner so long the delight of private circles, we shall content ourselves with the author's pretty accurate\* notice of him:

"Lover is a very forcibly effective and truthful writer of Irish novels, and falls into the ranks after Banim. He has less passion, but more picturesque vivacity. As a writer and composer of songs (not to mention the charming expression with which he sings them), Mr. Lover is perhaps still more popular, and his ballads have a certain singable beauty in them, and a happy occasional fancifulness. His novels, however, are the stuff whereof his fame

\* We only differ from him on the amount of genius allowed to the multitude of Lover's exquisitely touching and admirably humorous ballads.—*Ed. L. G.*

is made, and they are highly vital, and of great value in the sense of commentary on the national character. Who ever read 'Rory O'More' from beginning to end, without being seized with many a fit of uncontrollable laughter, and also shedding some tears? or who ever began to read it, and left off without reading to the end? Genuine pathos, and as genuine fun—a true love of nature, and simple true-heartedness—are all there; and the dialogues are exquisite, and full of Irish humour."

The dramatic writings of Browning and Marston, such as "Strafford" and the "Patrician's Daughter," are discussed at length, and the palm of genius allotted, notwithstanding certain drawbacks. Of Bulwer it is truly said: "Notwithstanding the popularity of Sir E. L. Bulwer, we hardly think he has been sufficiently appreciated as a great novelist by the majority even of those critics who admire his works; while the hostile attacks and depreciations have been very numerous and unceasing. Of his philosophy we would say in brief, that we believe the world is hardly in the main so bad as he considers it, and certainly with many more exceptions than he seems to admit; and that he himself is a much better man than he knows of, and only wants more faith in genuine and sincere nature to be himself the possessor of a share as large as his faith." All who know him intimately must feel, that however he may portray the bad of the world in his writings, there is none of that feeling in his own life and dealings with that world, but, on the contrary, a confiding and generous sympathy, far beyond what Mr. Horne would demand of him in his estimate.

Into W. H. Ainsworth our editor, as the slang folks have it, pitches with all his might; and only spares him from being skinned alive "because he is so much esteemed and regarded in private life." A would-be satirical review of Robert Montgomery follows, but it is a sad failure in execution. And passing over all the rest, we must wind up with the concluding paper on Henry Taylor and the author of "Festus." Here, as in the critique on Savage Landor, Mr. Horne runs riot with his peculiar tenets—the tenets of the Jargon school. He argues the question of genuine inspiration and poetry as between the lofty intelligible and the super-lofty unintelligible, awarding, of course, the crown of glory to the latter—to "Festus" and not to "Van Artevelde." In short, it is brought to this: are common sense and genius incompatible? If they are, Mr. Horne and his *confrères* are right; and you must be far above the clouds in inappreciable ether, in a balloon without a parachute ever to bring you back to the earth, out of sight of human eyes, and a vague spec or speculation to human apprehension; yea, you must be up there, like a sweet little cherub singing aloft the notes of cherubim, or else you are no true poet, nor possessed of faculty to judge what a true poet should be.

How easy it is to understand Homer, and Virgil, and Chaucer—he that runs might read them; but yet we opine they were poets!

*Essay on the Physiognomy of Serpents, by H. Schlegel, Conservator of the Museum of the Netherlands, &c. &c. Translated by T. S. Traill, M.D., F.R.S.E., &c. &c. Pp. 254. Edinburgh, Maclehlan, Stewart, and Co.*

DR. SCHLEGEL'S is the most complete *serpentine* work that has yet been published, and its English version does credit alike to author and translator; though there is nothing about either

the Old Serpent or the American Sea Serpent; and Dr. T. is not always so clear as he might be.

Dr. Schlegel and Professor Traill are not serpent-charmers, but seem, from the *amor* with which they have done their work, serpent-charmed. The volume is accordingly one of comprehensive science in all that concerns ophiology, and a valuable accession to natural history. We ought, however, to mention that our countryman has not adventured on the German great and expensively illustrated work; but has confined himself to its general portion and a few plainly engraved heads of genera and one chart of the geographical distribution of venomous snakes. In other respects he has contrived to give us pretty fully all the information contained in the original.

We have, first, the ophidians in general, and all their anatomical structure; then their colours, varieties, propagation, development, habits, enemies, fables concerning them, and details respecting the innocuous and venomous species. These offer no grounds for comment, and so few for illustration that we will content ourselves with the following brief extracts:—

"The greatest number of non-venomous snakes, and the colubriform venomous serpents, defend themselves against the attacks of their enemies, by darting at them with an elevated head, in order to bite with more effect; some, as the najas, straighten the front of their bodies, and take a very peculiar position. Most of them hiss strongly, as a prelude to the attack; sometimes also is heard a noise from the air, which they forcibly eject from their nostrils. Several species throw themselves on their prey with huge bounds, seize it generally with the mouth; others secure it by twisting the tail around it; and the boas also embrace it with the convolutions of their trunk. The venomous snakes, properly so called, employ the same means to procure the animals on which they subsist, and to rid themselves of their enemies. Indolently extended on the ground, they attack indiscriminately every animal which disturbs them by too near an approach: but knowing the power of their weapons, they are contented to inflict the mortal blow, which but rarely misses its aim. To execute this blow, they generally straighten the head, carry back the anterior part of the trunk, and at a single effort uncoil the folds of their body, and support themselves on the tail; the leap which this movement produces may be compared to the recoil of a spring, and it directs the wound inflicted by the fangs, by a sudden, extremely rapid, downward movement of the head."

Of monstrous serpents:—

"Monstrous serpents have been, though rarely, observed: to this number pertain the coluber with two heads taken on the banks of the Arno, which Redi kept alive during several weeks, and of which he has furnished a description in his works. Lacepede has collected several other facts relative to snakes with two heads, and gives a figure of a similar individual preserved in the galleries of the Museum of Paris. The figure of a third serpent with two heads is given by Edwards. M. de Frorip possesses also a specimen, in which two heads and two tails are perfectly separated. M. Mitchell makes mention of several monsters of this sort, observed in North America; the heads of these subjects being, more or less, united together, so that some of them had but three eyes, and a single lower jaw. In the same country, a serpent was found of probably the species called *Coluber constrictor*, of which all the parts were so disfigured by disease that

it was imagined they had found, in that monster, the famous sea-snake of the north, so celebrated for its vast size."—Dr. Traill "has a drawing of a small specimen of *Viverra berus* with two distinct heads, found in Dumfriesshire. The specimen was shewn to him by the young gentleman who found it about 4 years ago. In Bancroft's *Guiana* is figured another snake with two heads."

Of their enemies we read:—

"Serpents have numerous enemies among animals. Universally detested, man kills them, indifferent whether they be venomous or inoffensive, wherever he detects them. All the countries of the globe produce certain mammals that pursue serpents with persevering keenness. With us, it is chiefly the badger, the hedge-hog, the weasel, the martin, and the pole-cat, that contribute to the destruction of serpents; in the tropical countries of the ancient continent they encounter terrible enemies in the civet, the ichneumon, and other carnivora. Several birds wage on them a continual war, such especially is the serpent-eater of the Cape, mounted on its long stilt-like legs, as it would seem on purpose to render the bites of snakes ineffectual; in South America, the laughing falcon, and other birds of prey, pursue them eagerly; the large storks of India, such as the gigantic ciconia, destroy an immense number of serpents: in Europe, we should reckon among their enemies besides the storks, ravens, kites, and several buzzards. In tropical seas, there exist sharks that devour with avidity the sea-serpents; and lastly, many ophidians make war on each other, not even sparing their own species. By transplanting animals, the enemies of serpents, into countries infested by them, we might perhaps prevent the too great multiplication of these dangerous reptiles. This attempt has been made, by transporting the snake-eater of the Cape to the French West-Indian sugar-colonies; perhaps the mammalia which we have mentioned, or the storks, might render them as good or better services."—"Several species of intestinal worms infest the viscera of serpents. I have often found the stomach, near the pylorus, so full of them, that their presence must have caused continual obstructions, if not death: these worms formed a mass, hanging on the internal walls of that intestine. Some are confined to the intestinal canal, others to the mesentery, and some exist even in the serous membranes, especially in those investing the heart and lungs. The intestinal worms observed by M. Rudolph in different species of ophidians belong to the following genera: *ascaris*, *distoma*, *filaria*, *echinorhynchus*, *tænia*, *strongylus*, *trichosoma*, *pentastoma*, and *cucullanus*. The parasites, which are exteriorly attached to the skins of serpents, and suck their juices, are much less numerous than those we have just mentioned. Only a single genus is found, the ixodes, and especially that with a gilded thorax, which I have also observed on the monitor lizard, on the hog, the pangolin, and some other East Indian animals. M. Muller has described this insect. Metaxa has observed on several ophidians of Italy parasites, which he has recognised as forming two species of acarus. Daudin speaks of others found on the boa cenchria. I have detached some of them from pythons, from the *dipsas dendrophila*, and several other Javanese serpents. Serpents are useful by the destruction of hurtful animals—such as the small gnawers, worms, insects, molusca, &c., which they pursue. Formerly snakes were employed in medicine; and this practice is still retained by many people, although it

has been rejected by the more refined nations. Very recently Dr. Marikrosky, of Rosenau in Hungary, is said to have employed with success the bile of serpents in cases of epilepsy. [Snakes are still much employed in the pharmacy of Spain and Southern Italy. The translator found living snakes in the apothecaries' shops in the former country as regularly as sarsaparilla with us.] The prejudice against serpents in many countries is greatly superior to their utility. The venomous species multiply so in certain intertropical countries, and particularly in the island of Martinique, that they are a real plague, and annually cause the death of a great number of men and domestic animals. The aquatic snakes often do much damage in lakes and rivers abounding with fish; the terrestrial species devour mammalia and birds useful to man, and very often destroy the nests to devour the eggs or the young."

"The number of young which ophidians produce at a single deposition of eggs, differs considerably in the different species." From ten to forty appears to be the range. "The young, on leaving the egg, usually differ from their parents, besides their size, by a system of colouring more vivid and more contrasted by a head more blunt and more rounded, by the largeness of the eyes, and by the less perfect state of the epidermis and its appendages. They are, however, provided with teeth perfectly resembling those of the adult, of which they are ready to make use; and the venomous kinds, instructed by instinct with the power of their weapons, alternately elevate and lower their fangs, and defend themselves against attacks, with that fury which is innate in their race. . . . Shortly after their birth the young ophidians undergo their first moult. This operation is repeated in our climate, according to the observations of Lenz, five times in the year, viz. every month from the end of April to the beginning of September; whence it results that there is no casting of the skin during the hibernation. It would be very interesting to know how many moults serpents undergo in warm climates, where the state of sleep does not take place. A state of domesticity, a mode of life little natural to these animals, remarkably influences the functions of the skin, the epidermis of which does not renew itself in fixed and determinate periods; frequently this operation is very long, and so painful that the animal suffers much, or it is sometimes followed by death. . . . The changes which ophidians undergo before they have acquired their full growth have been as yet little studied. Thus sometimes the livery of the two sexes presents considerable varieties at different periods of life. The males have often a more thick and longer tail than the females, probably because they have the organs of generation lodged in a cavity at the base of that member; the females, on the other hand, acquire a size greater than that of the male, and their trunk is then of a more considerable volume. We are entirely ignorant of the age to which the different races of snakes arrive, although it is generally supposed that they live long, as do all other reptiles; we are equally ignorant whether they have a stated period of growth, or what may be its duration. It is probable that they grow during the whole term of their lives; but my observations induce me to believe that this augmentation of volume takes place differently in the different periods of life, and that it is subject to the same laws which regulate the development of the greatest part of other vertebrate animals. The thick and rounded forms which distinguish the young serpent disappear in the first months of its

existence, and it becomes more elongated as it approaches the age of puberty. This term is fixed in our climate, according to M. Lenz, at the fourth year. . . . Many travellers, and especially those of a more remote age, speak of serpents of a monstrous size, which they say they have encountered in their travels in intertropical countries, and which they state as reaching to 40 feet and upwards. In which ever country these great reptiles are found they apply to them the name of boa-constrictor, familiar to all, although the true boa-constrictor of systems yields much in dimensions to other species of the boa and the python. The numerous researches of modern well-informed travelling naturalists have belied many of the fables which have been promulgated on the nature of these ophidians. We now know that the most gigantic do not surpass twenty to twenty-five feet in total length; that their thickness is not above seven inches in diameter; and that the received notions on the great size of some species only repose on the vague surmises of the natives. We must reckon in the first rank of all known serpents in respect to its dimensions the boa murina, a native of the equatorial regions of America. The python bivittatus, spread over intertropical Africa and Asia, is in the ancient continent the representative of that boa, and attains nearly the same size. It is now found that the python Schneideri, inhabiting India, has an elongated shape, and rarely surpasses fifteen feet in total length; the boa-constrictor of the New World joins to an inferior length a very considerable thickness; as also do several other boas, colubri, &c. In our climate serpents are rarely more than five feet in length, but in middle Europe there is one species of coluber which arrives at the length of eight feet."

At all events they are big enough and venomous enough to frighten us all; and so we take our leave of them with pleasure—nevertheless recommending this scientific "Physiognomy" of them to all readers and students of natural history.

**NOTE.**—In our No. 1412 we addressed a long review to the earliest manufacture of linen, &c.; and having now the subject of serpents before us, we may note that it has been confidently asserted by ancient writers, that, previous to the use of the inner bark of trees and of reeds, termed *papyri*, from the plant papyrus, which abounds on the shores of the river Nile, and other similar substances, the material adopted to receive inscriptions was the skins of serpents, collected by ingenious persons as they were cast off by the creature, or preserved when the serpent was offered at the altar in sacrifices. It has, moreover, been said that the poems of Homer, on their being collected, possibly at first in detached parts from those who had committed the incidents to memory, were written on the skins of serpents—a practice adopted from the ancient Egyptians, an opinion prevailing that those parts of the bandages of mummies, bearing hieroglyphic legends and pictorial representations, were the skins of serpents, previously prepared and covered with a kind of plaster or stucco for that purpose.—*ED. L. G.*

*An Inquiry into the Nature of the Simple Bodies of Chemistry.* By David Low, F.R.S.E. Pp. 160. London, Longman and Co.; Edinburgh, A. and C. Black.

HEREF is another and a hard blow for tottering chemistry, or rather an attempt to remove some

of the superincumbent weight from an overloaded structure, to restore it to pristine simplicity, and to appropriate and proportional elevation. The half atoms and quarter atoms of theoretical combinations have greatly shaken confidence in the widely extended principles and laws of modern chemistry. Some philosophers see such absurdity in them that they deny the existence of ultimate matter, attributing all matter to a system of forces; whilst others, and these chiefly chemists, not being able to reconcile the truths of experiment with the anomalies of the theory, invent new theories or modifications of the atomic theory, to include all their facts. Among the latter, Mr. Low stands forth. "In regard to the nature of atoms, molecules, ultimate particles, or by whatever term we express our conception," he says, "it is needless to observe that we know and can know nothing, except from inference. We assume them to be parts of matter, which is simply our definition of an atom, particle, or molecule. We infer that they have weight and extension, for, being parts of matter, they must possess the essential characters by which matter alone is known to us. We cannot conceive a body to have weight and extension, and the parts of which it is composed to be destitute of weight and extension, however far we may suppose the division to be carried. Assuming that molecules are parts of matter, we must believe them to have weight and extension, otherwise a molecule is not, what we assume it to be, a part of matter. The illustrious Boscovich conceived of atoms that they were mathematical points; but this supposition infers that they were not substance, for substance without extension cannot be conceived. The theory of Boscovich, therefore, necessarily conducts to a doctrine of universal forces. If the molecules of matter are merely resisting-points, they are not substance, but force; and matter itself is a system of forces. This is a very noble conception; but the atom, thus conceived, is manifestly not the atom of the chemist, whose conception of an atom is, that it is a component part of matter. Philosophy, indeed, may admit, that when we arrive at the ultimate material bodies of the chemist, the law of continuity is still preserved; and that there are existences in the ascending order beyond the atom of the chemist, which have neither weight nor form, and are merely force. But this train of investigation is without the range of chemical inquiry. Chemistry must take matter to be as it is represented to the senses, and all speculation further must be barren of results with respect to the properties of bodies. If the chemist assumes, as he is almost compelled to do, that matter is composed of molecules, atoms, or particles, he must assume that these particles have both weight and form. Of the absolute weight of his atoms he can know nothing, because he cannot know the number of atoms which constitute any body of a known weight. But he can draw conclusions as to the relative weight of atoms from the law deduced from experiment that bodies combine in definite ratios. Assuming that molecule unites itself to molecule, it is a legitimate inference that the weight of these molecules is in proportion to the weight of the bodies which combine. This is really the atomic theory due to the genius of Dalton, divested of the useless hypotheses with which it has been encumbered; and thus understood, the atomic theory of Dalton is one of the happiest generalisations that has been introduced into any science. But we must not carry this theory beyond the limits of a just induction, if we are to apply it to the

explanation of chemical truths."—"We may speak of the atomic weight of bodies if we will, because this merely expresses a conclusion deduced from the law of the relative combining weight of bodies; but when we speak of a solid body containing so many atoms, or a volume of gas containing so many atoms, we employ terms which are inconsistent with the precision which ought to characterise the language of science." The atomic theory "is to be employed as the expression of our conception of a law, and should imply nothing beyond the idea involved."

This is a clear exposition of the atomic theory, and a fair view of the doctrine of universal forces. We should not have quarrelled with our author had he, as a chemist, limited matter to the atom of chemistry, and had he not allowed that philosophy may admit "existences in the ascending order" beyond it. He almost in this confesses himself a disciple of Boscowich, whilst contending for the material theory. But the law of continuity must be preserved! Mr. Low founds his modification of the atomic theory on a law of continuous combinations: such a law in its nature is without limit, and therefore he cannot deny to the philosopher what he assumes for the chemist. Yet, again, in the exposition of this law he supposes "that there are limits to the division of matter; for otherwise we should involve ourselves in this conclusion, that to form a particle of matter in any finite degree exceeding an infinitely small particle, by the successive addition of its integrant parts, an infinite time would be required. We may reasonably suppose, then, that there are limits to the division of matter, although these limits are unknown."

His limit, passing over hydrogen, is an assumed one, to account for the numerical equivalent given by experiment for carbon,  $6\frac{1}{2} = C$ . This he scarcely need have done, as most chemists in this country are inclined to, and many acknowledge, Prout's law of whole numbers. Continental authorities generally deny it; but Dumas has recently verified it for chlorine, silver, lead, calcium, potassium, and sodium. Mr. Low supposes, for the sake of example, that the value or atomic weight of the ultimate particle  $m$  is  $\cdot 01$ , and thence builds up a series, for the second member,  $m + \cdot 01 = \cdot 02$ ; for the third member,  $= \cdot 03$ ; and so on to  $H = 1\cdot 00$ ; and continuing the same series to  $6\frac{1}{2} = C$ . Thus, two definite bodies will have been formed, H and C; and from H and C, Mr. Low endeavours to shew that "we can suppose every known body and every possible combination to be derived." He resolves all matter into hydrogen and carbon, although admitting also the possibility that oxygen, from its low value, and from its universalism, forms with them a trinity of simple bodies.

A table is given, shewing the possible derivation of the simple bodies of chemistry from these common roots; and a close approximation to experimental values results. But here it must be evident, that with two or three combining bodies of low values, and one representing unity, any system of figures or amounts may be brought out. And hence arises the danger of empirical tables of equivalents, or of departure from rigorous experiment, to fix the relative combining weight of bodies. Induction and analogy, it is true, are great assistants to the discovery of natural laws, and have their value in settling or unsettling men's minds, stimulating to investigation and laborious research; but *experimentum crucis* must ever be in chemistry especially the test of

molecular constitution; and to regard a body as simple because we are not able to shew that it is compound, which Mr. Low decries, is, at all events, erring on the safe side.

But without entering deeply into the law of continuous combinations, or following Mr. Low at length in his inductive reasonings,—whence he speaks with confidence of nitrogen being isomeric with carbonic oxide, and whence he arrives at new relations and new groupings—such, for instance, as the relation of "sulphur, phosphorus, and the bodies allied to them, and chlorine and its analogues," to nitrogen, &c.,—we will briefly touch upon its bearing on the present principal questions of chemistry, carbon and silicon. First, however, we may call to mind the opinions entertained by Berzelius and Davy, that nitrogen is a compound body; and the statement of Mr. Knox (*Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy* for 1841), that he had decomposed nitrogen into silicon and hydrogen. Carbon, according to Mr. Low, is a simple body, a common root, although he does not insist upon this; it may be a simple multiple of hydrogen, if 6 were its equivalent; or if  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , according to experiment, then it may be derived from hydrogen and the higher order of molecules above referred to. This is vague enough, and far inferior to the experiments of Mr. Rigg, shaking the stability of carbon as a simple body. Equally unsatisfactory are his reasonings in regard to the relation of carbon and silicon—unsatisfactory, we mean, as not bringing facts to bear upon the question—the reasonings themselves are ingenious and plausible. In relation to silica, the combining weight of silicon or silicium has been estimated by Berzelius at  $22\frac{1}{2}1$ , by Dumas at  $7\frac{1}{4}$ . Mr. Low explains silicium according to the first equivalent,  $H^{10} C^2$ , and to the second,  $H C$ , which give respectively  $22\frac{1}{2}0$  and  $7\frac{1}{4}0$ . If the latter, the mere addition or subtraction of one equivalent of hydrogen would produce silicon or reduce it to carbon. And whether by any natural process this substance silicon is converted into carbon by parting with its hydrogen, or whether, on the other hand, carbon by combination with the same element is converted into silicon, "is not known, although probable in a high degree." This probability is carried on by Mr. Low in reference to flinty petrifications in chalk, and to the extraction of carbon by plants from silica. But we have done. We have been induced to enter more at length into the subject, because of the grave doubts thrown on all sides upon modern chemistry. We trust, however, to have more stable grounds for views than those brought forward by Mr. Low, and perhaps some springing from his able inductions and analogies. We look, however, more immediately in this country to such experimentalists as Dr. Brown and others.

#### LIEUT. OUCHTERLONY'S CHINESE WAR.

[Conclusion.]

The capture of Chin-keang-foo was, like other actions of the same kind, attended by striking circumstances:—

"Evening was now closing in, and guards having been placed at most of the gates and alarm posts, the victorious troops got into quarters wherever shelter happened to be procurable. The night, however, proved one of incessant alarms, as the attempts which were made from time to time by small parties of the survivors of the garrison to escape from the city, invariably caused a rattle of musketry far and wide, and set all the bugles and drummers

sounding and beating arms at every report. Several desperate rushes were made upon sentries and guards by Tartar soldiers who had secreted themselves in houses, and a great many men were killed during the night by the Cameronians, who were frequently aroused. Encounters took place even inside houses which had been peaceably occupied as quarters, and in which Tartars were afterwards found concealed."—"The morning of the 22d July rose upon a fearful scene of desolation. The late flourishing city of Chin-keang-foo was now a spectacle of ruin; its ramparts and streets encumbered with the corpses of the slain, and the bodies of the wounded and the dying; many of its finest buildings destroyed, and its main street of shops, and the dwelling-houses near the gates, gutted by the horde of marauders who had commenced their devastations even before the tumult of the fight had ceased and its dangers were at an end. Many of these plunderers, and also most of the survivors of the garrison, must have made their escape under cover of the darkness through a gateway opening upon the south-east, upon which a guard had not been placed until the morning; and considering the short space of time which had been afforded in the night for their predatory proceedings, the amount of destruction and of property carried off by the marauders was truly astonishing. Armed parties were sent out shortly after daybreak, to patrol the Tartar quarter in search of concealed soldiers, and to destroy the arsenals and depôts of military stores, while fatigue-detachments of sappers and miners were employed in collecting and interring the dead, from whose remains, owing to the excessive heat of the weather, the most noisome exhalations were already rising. Frightful were the scenes witnessed by these men among the houses and enclosures of the city, as group after group of whole families lying stiffened in their blood, within their own homestead, were discovered in the streets occupied by the Tartar troops and mandarins, so numerous and so painfully interesting in their revolting details, as to impress with deep and lasting horror all who witnessed this happily rare example of the miseries and ferocities of war. The bodies of most of the hapless little children who had fallen sacrifices to the enthusiasm and mad despair of their parents were found lying within the houses, and usually in the chambers of the women, as if each father had assembled the whole of his family before consummating the dreadful massacre; but many corpses of boys were lying in the streets, amongst those of horses and soldiers, as if an alarm had spread, and they had been stabbed while they had been attempting to escape from their ruthless parents. In a few instances these poor little sufferers were found the morning after the assault still breathing, the tide of life ebbing slowly away, as they lay writhing in the agony of a broken spine, a mode of destruction so cruel that, but for the most certain evidence of its reality, would not be believed. In one of the houses the bodies of seven dead and dying persons were found in one room, forming a group which for loathsome horror was perhaps unequalled. The house was evidently the abode of a man of some rank and consideration, and the delicate forms and features of the sufferers denoted them as belonging to the higher order of Tartars. On the floor, essaying in vain to put food with a spoon into the mouths of two young children extended on a mattress, writhing in the agonies of death, caused by the dislocation of their spines, sat an old decrepit man, weeping bitterly as he listened to the piteous

moans and convulsive breathings of the poor infants, while his eye wandered over the ghastly relics of mortality around him. On a bed, near the dying children, lay the body of a beautiful young woman, her limbs and apparel arranged as if in sleep. She was cold, and had been long dead. One arm clasped her neck, over which a silk scarf was thrown, to conceal the gash in her throat which had destroyed her life. Near her lay the corpse of a woman somewhat more advanced in years, stretched on a silk coverlet, her features distorted, and her eyes open and fixed, as if she had died by poison or strangulation. There was no wound upon the body, nor any blood upon her person or clothes. A dead child, stabbed through the neck, lay near her; and in the narrow verandah, adjoining the room, were the corpses of two more women, suspended from the rafters by twisted cloths wound round their necks. They were both young—one quite a girl—and her features, in spite of the hideous distortion produced by the mode of her death, retained traces of their original beauty sufficient to shew the lovely mould in which they had been cast. From the old man, who appeared by his humble garb to have been a servant or retainer of the family thus awfully swept away, nothing could be elicited as to the mode or authors of their death,—nothing but unintelligible signs of poignant distress. He was made to comprehend the object of the interring party, and at once testified the utmost satisfaction and gratitude for their humane interposition, assisting to carry the bodies down the staircase into the court, where, a shallow grave having been excavated beneath the pavement, he tenderly placed them in their sad resting-place, and having covered them with clothes, the stone slabs were replaced over their remains. The two dying children shortly afterwards breathed their last, and were interred beside the grave of their hapless relatives. The old man remained in the now silent abode of his lost chief, and was seen no more."—"No description, indeed, can convey an adequate idea of the utter desolation, ruin, and abomination, which it presented on the seventh day only of our occupation after the troops had withdrawn from their quarters near the gates. It was a city of the dead, and a silence the most dismal and profound rested on its deserted streets and tenantless ruined houses, as though the blight of pestilence had swept but lately over them. In many parts where, from there having been no troops quartered, the interring party had not been very diligently employed, the air was poisoned by the bodies of Tartar soldiers lying where they had dragged themselves to die, or where they had been thrown down by their comrades who had borne them from the field, blackened by exposure to the sun, and swollen to a prodigious size. Wild, miserable-looking dogs, flitting about the streets when disturbed from their hideous banquet, were to be seen by scores, appearing to be the only things alive which remained to haunt the abodes of the departed, save where a gang of native plunderers might be discerned prowling about in pursuit of spoil. Scarcely a single dwelling-house, shop, temple, or public building, had escaped; all had their doors wrenched off, or their windows and walls beaten in; many were roofless, others half destroyed by fire, and the interior of most presented a mingled mass of furniture, wearing apparel, porcelain, arms, books, and every description of household goods, all torn, broken, or trodden under foot, which heaped the floors of their chambers and halls in melancholy and disgusting confusion. Every effort

was made by the military authorities to put a stop to the spoliation and plunder which were thus reducing the city to irremediable ruin; but they proceeded, in spite of the denunciations of the officers, and the energetic appeals of the provost-marshall and his guard; for while the front entrances of houses were preserved unharmed by our patrols, they were entered by passages and inlets in the rear, and entirely gutted by the plunderers who swarmed into the city after the assault, long before a suspicion was raised as to their proceedings. Indeed, what with soldiers, camp followers, sailors, lascars, and Chinamen, (the latter of whom secreted themselves during the day, and issued forth at night like beasts of prey,) there was seldom wanting some active agent of destruction to complete the ruin commenced the night after the storm."—"Revolted, however, as the scene was in the city, that presented by the suburb was a hundred-fold worse; for there, from its great extent, and the endless ramifications of its lanes and alleys, it was impossible to maintain the least check upon the maraudings alike of friend and foe, and the jurisdiction and sphere of utility of the active and able Sergeant Baxter, the provost-marshall to the force, were in consequence bounded by the city walls. Utter licence, therefore, prevailed in the unfortunate suburb, and not a boat's crew of lascars or Europeans bringing provisions ashore for the troops returned to the transports until after they had made a dive into some fresh, untouched-looking corner, or had carried a foray through a whole side of some once flourishing street. Chinamen and Europeans, Indians, Africans, and Malays, were to be seen mixed up together, jostling one another in the common chase, and generally with the greatest good humour; although when a cargo of 'loot' had been collected, it was the general practice to press a gang of Chinamen to carry it off to its destination by means of persuasion not always the most gentle. It was curious, too, to observe with what patience and submission the Chinese lower orders bore all this domineering and rough usage, for it was a common spectacle to see a couple of Indians, or two or three ship's boys, with nothing but cutlasses by their sides, driving before them a score of brawny fellows, laden with bags of sugar, boxes of tea, fruits, &c., and belabouring them without mercy whenever they proved refractory; but amongst themselves, the most savage fights took place whenever adverse gangs of native plunderers encountered on the same preserve. The news also of the rich harvest soon spread among the villages adjacent, and the numbers of these wretches increased hourly, until they reached such an amount, and became so ferocious in their practices, that active and sanguinary measures had to be taken to get rid of them from the neighbourhood of the buildings in which some of our troops were quartered."

The treaty of peace, Nanking, the Porcelain tower, the emperor's preserves containing only a few quails and magpies, need not detain us: "On their way to Chusan, Sir Henry Pottinger, the admiral, and the general, proceeded in steamers up the Wobsung river, to Shang-hae, which they found wonderfully restored, and exhibiting a scene of great industry and activity. While lying off the town in the 'Queen,' the plenipotentiary received a visit from a Roman Catholic priest, who bears the high-sounding title of 'Archbishop of Nanking.' He is a Frenchman, and reputed for mental attainments and for enthusiasm in his calling. He came, under cover of the darkness, at ten o'clock at night, in the dress of a Chinaman,

with a long tail, &c., and remained closeted with the plenipotentiary for a considerable time. His ordinary place of abode is Nanking, but the signs of the times had induced him to remove to the neighbourhood of Shang-hae, where there was, we understood, a large community of native Christians, and where the proximity of the coast, and the presence of a squadron of the British fleet, afforded him readier means of escape, in case of need. About the time of the entrance of the Yang-tse-Kiang by the expedition, a number of Catholic missionaries took advantage of the general confusion, and of the temporary dispersal of the mandarins, to follow in our wake, and effect a landing on the banks of the river, for the purpose of penetrating, in the disguise of Chinese (being accompanied and directed by native converts, brought up in the institution of the Propaganda), into the heart of the empire, to carry out those projects, and fulfil those sacred vows, upon which their lives are so devotedly staked, and so often sacrificed."

The tragedy of the Nerbudda and Anne has been already fully treated of in our pages; and with the unhealthiness of Hong Kong we have not data upon which to proceed. We believe it is attributed to the water, but the mountain-range so near and parallel to the coast, interfering with the sea breeze, must produce injurious effects. How far they can be remedied will soon be ascertained. We must now, however, bid farewell to our author, thanking him for his interesting narrative, and simply quoting a matter hitherto unknown to us: "The public notices and passages of interest which appear in the English newspapers published in China, are translated into Chinese, in Canton, with regularity and with considerable accuracy."

#### MR. HAVERTY'S WANDERINGS IN SPAIN.

[Second notice: conclusion.]

AT Malaga Mr. Haverty speaks highly of the hospitalities and able conduct of our consul Mr. Mark, who has indeed on several memorable and difficult occasions acquitted himself of his duties in a manner to deserve a national encomium.

The account of La Mancha, which he traversed on his route to Madrid, exhibits that province in a wild and deplorable condition: "It is (he tells us) the native country of nearly all the lame and blind paupers, street-criers, and wandering musicians, who are to be met with in the capital, and in a great part of Spain besides; and although many Manchegos may be led thus to follow the life of *tunantes*, or vagabonds, from what has become with them a provincial taste rather than by necessity, still there is no question of the extreme indigence which they are obliged to endure in their own country. The groups of beggars I met in this part of Spain were decidedly the most squalid and wretched I have ever seen in any country; and I can never forget a harrowing scene of misfortune which I witnessed there one evening at a short distance outside the village of Puerto Lapiche. We saw a crowd of eighteen or twenty persons collected on the road-side, and on looking closer, I perceived in the midst of them the corpse of an old woman, haggard and ghastly, as if the flesh had been withered off the bones before life departed, and that pitiless hunger left nothing but a skeleton for Death. By the side of the body sat the spectral form of a young girl, the daughter of the deceased, weeping most piteously, and wringing her attenuated and meagre hands in an agony of despair. The mother and daughter had been en-

deavouring to make their way to some large town to beg for bread; but want and fatigue thus cut short the career of one of the victims."

Reverting also to our promise to select a portion of the work which notices the literature of Spain, we have now only to append the following extracts:

"The prevalence (says our author) of the romantic school continued only from 1834 to 1839, when it was replaced by what is designated the classic style. If, however, we ask an enlightened Spaniard at the present moment what the character of his national literature is, he will candidly tell us that it is a literature of translation, without any really original character; and again, the spirit of translation which thus prevails is considerably restricted in its operation: for it rarely happens that works are translated into Spanish from any other language than the French. In fact, the literature of other countries is scarcely known in Spain except through the medium of French.\* It must, however, be stated that the glorious spirit of intellectual advancement is abroad among the youth of Spain—a spirit unaided by government or local institutions—unsupported either by any species of public enterprise which could render practical education profitable—and damped by the barbarming influence of civil war, and by the absorbing interests of political parties. Under the most dispiriting circumstances, in fact, and by a natural, self-acting, generous, and humanising impulse, popular education is at this moment making rapid strides in Spain.† As an index of this healthy intellectual progress may be mentioned the fact, that two voluminous Encyclopedias are at this moment being published in Madrid. One is a mere translation from the French, and requires no further mention; the other, four volumes of which had been published up to May of last year (1843), is styled 'Encyclopedia Espanola del siglo xix.—'the Spanish Cyclopaedia of the Nineteenth Century,' and will be composed of purely original materials, so far at least as national literature or history are concerned; the results of scientific research and the doctrines of philosophy being almost the only matters in which compilation and simple translation will be called into requisition. This important work is under the direction of Don Francisco de Cárdenas, a gentleman of great literary attainments and sound and enlightened understanding; and amongst his *collaborateurs* are such men as Martínez de la Rosa, Gil y Zarate, Pidal, Puente y Apezchea, Francisco Pacheco, Santisteban, Llorante, Donoso Cortes, Pastor Diaz, &c., all distinguished *literati* of the country, and many of them remarkable too in the political world."

Of Spanish historical authors, Mr. H. enumerates the late Count de Toreno, Pacheco, and Donoso Cortes; of dramatists, Martínez de la Rosa, Bretón de los Herrenos, Gil y Zarate, Harzenbuch, Zorilla, and Rubí, the two latter being lyric as well as dramatic poets. He adds: "There is besides a host of minor poets and dramatists whom I do not mention. But the stage and acting drama of Spain have long been in so low a state that the subject,

\* The study of English is at present much cultivated in Spain, especially in the southern provinces, but is confined almost exclusively to the mercantile classes."

+ "I have been told by an officer of the French Foreign Legion, lately in the Spanish service, that the average number of soldiers who could read and write was found to be greater in the Spanish than in the French corps. This circumstance, if it had been ascertained on any extensive scale, is a decisive refutation of the charge of degrading ignorance so generally made against the Spanish peasantry by both English and French writers."

practically, is almost unworthy of notice. Among the works which have lately issued from the Spanish press may be mentioned the 'Historia de la Civilización Espanola,' by Don Fernan Gonzalo Moren; 'Lecciones de Filosofía Eclesiática,' by Don Tomás García Luna; and the 'Galería de Espanoles celebres Contemporáneos,' which appears in a serial form, and is edited by Don Nicomedes Pastor Diaz and Don Francisco de Cárdenas. The principal periodicals are the 'Revista de Madrid' and the 'Revista de España y del Extranjero' (the Madrid, and Spanish and Foreign Reviews). Political writing in Spain is confined entirely to the journals, and those are the most corrupt that disgrace the periodical press of any free country. Indeed the journals of Madrid are for the most part the organs of petty cliques, and not of great political parties, and their facts are as distorted as their opinions are unprincipled."

The literary institutions are few, though those of long standing, such as the Real Academia Espanola, founded in 1713, and the Real Academia de Historia, founded in 1738, are honoured at home and respected by scholars throughout Europe.

*Au revoir*, as our novelists like to phrase it, we leave these volumes to the taste of the country, only remarking that those who know the least about Spain will like them the best.

*The Treasury of History; comprising a General Introductory Outline of Universal History, &c., and a Series of separate Histories of every principal Nation that exists, &c. &c.* By Samuel Mauder, author of the "Treasury of Knowledge," "Biographical Treasury," &c. Pp. 864, double cols. London, Longman and Co.

Few individuals, in any age or country, have ever done so much to promote the education of youth throughout the masses of population, and disseminate a vast portion of useful intelligence over the whole community, as Mr. Samuel Mauder. If not the first projector, he was the able executor of nearly all Pinnock's valuable Catechisms; and since their termination he has produced the several *Treasures* bearing his name, which are now so justly and universally appreciated wherever the English language is spoken. In the present instance we see the same utility of purpose, the same diligence and pains-taking with the materials, the same skill and talent in putting them together, and, in fine, the same general excellence which has marked all Mr. Mauder's productions. The arrangement of all is most clear and judicious, and the information furnished at once so concise and ample, that within this small volume we find a very complete and satisfactory epitome of the history of the world from ancient to modern times. The strong traces of sterling good sense, the absence of political or party prejudices, though generally conservative, and the straightforward style which this laborious task displays in every page, are but so many more powerful recommendations of it to the public. And to the public we leave it, fully persuaded that it needs but to be known to spread its knowledge among all classes throughout the British empire.

*Foreign Library. History of Ten Years, 1830-40.*  
By Louis Blanc. Parts I. and II. London, Chapman and Hall.

*Fas est ab hoste doceri* may often be a good motto; but as we are not inclined to dabble in

\* Books are dearer in Spain than in any other civilised nation—for the obvious reason, that the purchasers being few, the publisher must seek for remuneration in high prices. Besides, it is by mere accident that a work can be found in the shop of any bookseller except of him by whom it was published.†

all the Parisian troubles and intrigues of French politics, especially when narrated with the deepest inveteracy of hatred towards England, we shall not enter in the black catalogue of M. Blanc. France may thank Heaven that she has at last got an upright and most able minister in M. Guizot—she may truly conclude that the friendliest relations between her and Great Britain is the greatest good that can happen to herself and the whole world; and we would fain hope that the turbulent spirits who belong to the school of this author may be kept down by the better sense and feeling of the majority of their countrymen.

*Sir T. Browne's Religio Medici and Christian Morals, with resonant Passages from Cowper's Task, and Verbal Index.* Pp. 275. London, Longman and Co.

The public in general, and all readers of pure taste and virtuous feelings in particular, are deeply indebted to the editor, Mr. John Peace, of Bristol, for publishing, for the first time, Sir T. Browne's admirable *Religio Medici* and its sequel *Christian Morals* together in one volume; and also for his careful correction of the text in both. The index is rich in good old English words; but the great attraction of the book is the quotation of corresponding passages from "The Task," which shew how fully imbued the poet was with the elder author, and how closely he paraphrased many of his ideas, even using his own language and turn of expression. The following instances, from a considerable number, are to the point:

"Who from the name of Saviour can condescend to be bare term of prophet.—*Rel. Med.* p. 47 (see knee in index.)

"Who knew thy name, adoring, and then preach thee man.  
*Task*, vi. 886."

"I draw not my purse for his sake that demands it, but His that enjoined it.—*Rel. Med.* p. 110.

"Not for its own sake merely, but for His  
Much more who fashion'd it, he gives it praise,  
*Task*, v. 800."

"I hold that there is a physiognomy, not only of men, but of plants and vegetables. The finger of God hath left an inscription upon all his works, not graphical or composed of letters. Delineated by a pencil that never works in vain.—*Rel. Med.* pp. 111, 112.

"Not a flower  
But shews some touch, in freckle, streak, or stain,  
Of his unrival'd pencil.

Nature, enchanting nature, in whose form  
And lineaments divine I trace a hand  
That errs not.  
*Task*, vi. 240; iii. 721."

"There was never any thing so like another as in all points to concur; there will ever some reserved eccentricities slip in to prevent the identity; without which two several things would not be alike, but the same, which is impossible.—*Rel. Med.* pp. 115, 116.

"Th' Almighty Maker has throughout  
Discriminated each from each, by strokes  
And touches of his hand with so much art  
Diversified, that two were never found  
Twins at all points.  
*Task*, iv. 734."

"The world that I regard is myself, it is the microcosm of my own frame that I cast my eye on; for the other, I use it but like my globe, and turn it round sometimes for my recreation.—*Rel. Med.* p. 137.

"Surveying thus at ease  
The globe and its concerns, I seem advanced  
To some secure and more than mortal height,  
That liberates and exempts me from them all;  
It turns, submitted to my view, turns round  
With all its generations.  
*Task*, iv. 94."

*Western Africa; its Condition, and Christianity the Means of its Recovery.* By D. J. East. 12mo, pp. 400. London, Houlston and Stoneman.

*Western Africa by East* is a droll backing for a book, but so it is here; and a large portion of Central Africa given into the bargain. The work itself is evidently a well-meant, though but a weak attempt to carry so great a cause. Its style is very poor; and its reasoning any thing but convincing. Thus, for instance, we

read, "it is said that every cabooseer of Ashanti is in possession of thousands of slaves," and the next paragraph begins "these are facts which no one will venture to call in question." Why, then, tell us "it is said," instead of stating the fact, among others?

Mr. E., quoting from all our African travellers, paints Africa as the finest quarter of the globe (sinking deserts and climate), and accounts for its debasement by the prevalence of slavery, polygamy, Islamism consorting with paganism, the degradation of the sex, Fetish worship and superstition, and other minor contributors. He then maintains that the negro races possess excellent natural qualities and intellectual capabilities; and proceeds to his proposition that the only means to civilise and improve them is by the diffusion of Christianity. To accomplish this he invokes all sects to concur; but does not demonstrate any process by which we could work the miracle, and get "all sects" to agree in any thing!

All other difficulties he tries to supersede in a similar manner. Experience must have taught Europeans how to preserve their health in Africa; and the climate itself must improve as civilisation advances. But though white missionaries may thus do much, we must look for the greatest effects from the preaching of native agents, and in particular from those obtained from Sierra Leone.

All we can say is, May God speed the good work! but our author points out no likely human means.

*Tragedies; to which are added Sonnets and Verse.*

By T. N. Talfourd. Pp. 276.

*Philip Van Artevelde, &c.* By H. Taylor. Pp. 307. To Mr. Moxon we owe thanks for a new and cheap edition of Sergeant Talfourd's pure, elegant, and classical productions, and in the cheapest form so as to be accessible to all. We can thus buy gems at the rate of paste. Mr. H. Taylor's fine dramatic romance, in a third edition, no less deserves our welcome.

*The Position of the Church of England in the Catholic World.* By Rev. J. R. Page, M.A., &c. 8vo, pp. 323. London, W. White.

The writer holds that there is not a more unprofitable expenditure of time and mind than that which is consumed in disputes between members and ministers of the same church; and we are of the same opinion.

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

##### ABYSSINIAN TRAVELLERS.

Cairo, January 18th, 1844.

We have just received intelligence from Mr. Parkyns, the English traveller, who passed through this city some months since, with the intention of visiting Abyssinia. He writes from Masuah, that the plan of his intended route is first to travel through the country of the Galla to the south of Shoa, to visit the lake of Dembea and the sources of the White Nile, and to devote two years to this enterprise. He afterwards means to proceed by way of Darfour to the Niger, and to descend that river to the Gulf of Benin. This is nearly the same plan as that of Rochet d'Hericourt, and it is highly probable that it may be carried into effect by the aid of the Arabian and Galla languages, provided the Mahomedan slave-dealers do not throw insurmountable obstacles in his way, which is not unlikely, partly because they dread any interference of Europeans in their trade, and partly because every caravan which has an European in its company is in fear for its own safety; since he is always supposed to be rich,

and the reputation of his pretended treasures exposes the caravan to attacks.

The French traveller Lefevre has returned from Abyssinia, and apparently without having attained his object. There are many reports flying abroad on the subject. He must, by this time, be in France, and will, in all likelihood, publish an account of his travels. If Abyssinia does not soon become one of the best known countries on the face of the earth, it will not be because Europeans have neglected it, for there is an uninterrupted succession of travellers on their way thither. We have seen Kraft and Isenberg's account of their journey, which has made a very favourable impression by its simplicity and manifest adherence to truth.

#### ARTS AND SCIENCES.

##### GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

*March 11.—Mr. Murchison, president, in the chair.* The following papers were read, viz.:

1st. "An account of an excursion into Hamdramaut," by the Baron de Wrede. Following the suggestion of Lieut. Welsthorpe, the baron assumed the Mohammedan costume; and under the name of Abd-el-Hud quitted Aden on the 22d of June last year for Burum on the coast, where he disembarked, and proceeded by land to Makalla, whence on the 26th he struck into the interior under the protection of a Bedouin, and arrived at the celebrated Wadi Doan after a march of eight days and a half. The country passed over lay among granitic and sandstone mountains, reaching to a height of 4000 to 8000 feet above the sea; from the foot of some of these elevations issued chalybeate springs, of a temperature from 100° to 130° F. The temperature in the valleys sometimes rose to 150° and 160°, but was agreeably cool on the top of the plateau. The vegetation was scanty, consisting chiefly of aromatic plants and a few acacias. The Wadi Doan is minutely described by the baron; it is narrow and deep, and abounds in date-trees; the stream meanders through its bottom, and the habitations, which are numerous, rise in amphitheatres on its sides and terraces. The descent into the Wadi is difficult and dangerous. At the town of Choreibe, the traveller was hospitably received by the sheik, Abdalla-Ba-Sudan. From hence the baron went in search of some inscriptions in the neighbourhood; but was not permitted to visit Nakab-el-Hajar, being stopped when about six miles from that place by a band of Bedouins, and forced to return to Wadi Doan. Five days' journey from Wadi Doan is Wadi Hajar, which has different names and different places: it is fertile in dates, and is watered by a continually running stream. The Wadi Doan also changes its name several times. Having visited other Wadis, the traveller arrived at Sava, in the Wadi Raschid, distant one day's journey from the desert of El Ahkaf. In this neighbourhood, he was informed, were some dangerous quicksands, which had formerly proved fatal to the army of King Saffi, which was there swallowed up. The superstitious dread in which the natives held this place was such that the baron could get no one to accompany him to the spot, and he therefore went alone; the scene is described as melancholy in the extreme. Arrived at the interesting spot, he approached it cautiously, and throwing in a line of 30 fathoms with a weight of 1 lb at the end, it sunk instantly with a diminishing velocity, and in five minutes had totally disappeared. The sand was extremely fine and dry, and the baron declares himself unable to explain this phenomenon. Returning to Choreibe,

other places in the vicinity were visited. At Grein, in the Wadi Doan, the baron was seized, ill-treated, and carried bound and bleeding before the reigning sultan; he was declared to be an English spy, and an universal shout was raised for his instant death. He was, however, rescued from this peril by his guides and protectors, but remained for three days confined with his feet in fetters. Ultimately he was allowed to return to Makalla, after being plundered of every thing except a few notes, which he contrived to secrete. He reached Makalla on Sept. 8, whence he returned in a boat to Aden, after an absence of about 82 days.

2. The second paper read was an account of the Hume River, in Australia, by Captain Sturt, whose explorations enable us to lay down accurately a river whose real direction was before unknown.

3. A paper by Govr. Grey, of South Australia, was read—being a note on the dialects spoken by the natives along the southern seaboard of New Holland. Beginning from the S.W. angle of the island, and proceeding eastward, five different dialects are spoken: the first reaching to long. 124° E.; the second thence to 137°; the third extending to Lake Alexandria: the fourth spoken in a tract lying between 139° and 145° E. long., and reaching southward to about lat. 35° S.; and the fifth spoken in the western portion of Australia Felix. These several dialects, from their radical and grammatical resemblance, appear to be all derived from a common stock: they seem to have come from the north.

The last two papers were communicated to the society by the kindness of Lord Stanley. The business of the evening being concluded, the Rev. C. Forster addressed the meeting on the interesting subject of the Himyaritic inscriptions of Southern Arabia, the progress which had been made by others and by himself in deciphering the same, and their importance in throwing light upon the remote history of a part of the world now so little known, but once the scene of great events.

##### ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

*Feb. 14.—1. Read a paper "On the ancient Peruvians, by Dr. De Tschudi."* The author had spent many years in the country, during which time he had carefully investigated the various relics which the former possessors of the soil had left of their architectural talents, whether in the form of villages, temples, or tombs. He described houses of different constructions, all remarkable for the prodigious solidity compared with the size of the chambers. The largest consisted of three stories, of difficult access from each other. The ground-floor appeared to have been that chiefly occupied by the family, whilst the uppermost occasionally served as a receptacle for the dead as well as for a store-room.

In noticing the mummies of the ancient Peruvians, the most remarkable part of the description related to the attitudes of the dead, which were not unfrequently those in which they had been engaged during life. The different forms of the Peruvian head, and some anatomical peculiarities, attributed by Pentland and Tiedemann to peculiarity of development, but now known to be caused by artificial means, were pointed out in a mode which raised considerable discussion.

2. A paper "On the natives of Senegambia, by Staff-Assist. Surgeon Tonnère." The Foulahs are a very fine race; tall, slender, and straight; fine-limbed and muscular, with well-arched, small, and tapering feet, and delicately

formed hands. The features are small, and even delicate, thin lips, a long thin aquiline nose, good teeth, and chin on a line with the forehead, which is high and vertical. The eyes are mild and expressive, the countenance is of a fine oval, and, like the whole person, elongated, which is also heightened by a thin pointed beard, five or six inches in length. The hair is silky, abundant, and curling, and platted in numerous small tresses, and descends half-way down the neck. The complexion is of a dark olive or copper colour. The countenance is very engaging, open, and intelligent; and in his whole deportment the Foulah has the dignity and gravity of the Asiatic.

The Jollofs are the first link in connecting the Foulah and negro; and of black races are by far the most handsome. Their colour is a deep black, and their features are small and regular, and in most respects resemble the Foulah. There is already in the Jollof a negro tendency; the lips are rather thick, and the hair, which is crisp, rarely exceeds six inches in length, and the skin exhales a certain odour which is even remarked in the Foulah. They are a very intelligent people, and in the arts they have attained to greater perfection than any of their neighbours. They were formerly a great nation, and are still a brave and warlike people; but a great part of their country is now in the hands of the Foulahs and Mandingos.

In the Mandingo there is a stronger tendency to the negro. The lips are sometimes thick, but in general can only be termed full. The hair is perhaps coarser than the Jollofs, but can never be called woolly. The skin is of a dull black, rarely bright as in the Jollof; in other respects the Foulah personified—the same duly cut features, long oval countenance, mild eye, and pointed beard, the grave and dignified expression, slender and elongated body, and delicate extremities. Notwithstanding a great tendency to the negro, the Mandingo does not yield in intelligence to either the Foulah or Jollof, and in energy of character is perhaps superior; and as a warrior, a merchant, or a marabout, displays abilities of a high order. As a natural consequence, it is now the predominant nation of western Africa, where they possess extensive and independent kingdoms from the source of the Gambia as far as the Atlantic, and, from that river, a great part of the low country as far as Sierra Leone. The Mandingo women, like their pagan neighbours, never go veiled; their dress consists of two pangas or pieces of country cloth, one wrapped round the waist and falling down to the feet, the other loosely thrown over the shoulders, which is sometimes drawn over the head; the hair is divided into rows of small plait, and has a pleasing effect; the head is generally encircled by a narrow stripe of cotton. Their feet are protected by sandals of leather, neatly made and stamped with red and yellow arabesques. The ears are ornamented with several rings of gold of a twisted shape, and, when they can afford it, they have anklets or armlets of the same precious metal; the neck is encircled with beads of coral, sometimes alternating with gold, which has a very good effect. Round the loins are worn several strings of large glass beads, as many sometimes as twenty. They say it supports their bodies, and acts like the stays of their European sisters. The Mandingo woman is proud of being a mother, and if she gives birth to a boy her joy knows no bounds. For this she bears with astonishing fortitude the pangs of labour, nor while it lasts does she utter a single

cry. The government of the Mandingos is a limited monarchy, sometimes elective, and always remarkable for a republican spirit. Debtors unable to liquidate what they owe can be seized by the creditor and sold into slavery. If he cannot be found, they are allowed to seize on a countryman, and to hold him as a bond, for which they are, however, obliged afterwards to indemnify him. The language of the Mandingos differs completely from those spoken by the Jollofs and Foulahs; it is more harmonious, and well suited for poetry, but it is not a pure language, being mixed up with Arabic.

Dr. Andrew Smith, the African traveller, and Mr. Alexander Simpson, the American and Polynesian traveller, addressed the meeting upon the physical and intellectual character of the races alluded to in the papers; and Mr. Major alluded to many points of interest regarding the pottery of the ancient Peruvians.

#### CIVIL ENGINEERS.

*March 5.*—The president in the chair. The first paper read was, a description, by Mr. J. T. Syme, of the bridge over the river Whittadder at Allanton. This bridge consists of two arches of 75 feet span each, with a versed sine of 11 feet 6 inches, the centre pier being 32 feet 1 inch long, and 10 feet in breadth, making the distance between the faces of the abutments 160 feet; it was constructed of soft red sandstone, and the abutments were built up solid, the greater part of the masonry being ashlars. The total cost of the bridge was stated to be 6058L.—An account of the building of Wellington bridge over the river Aire, at Leeds, by Mr. J. Timperley, was also read. This bridge crosses the river where it is 100 feet wide and 6 feet deep; it consists of a segmental arch of 100 feet span, with a versed sine of 15 feet, constructed of stone from the quarries of Bramley Fall, which are about four miles from the bridge; the abutments are built in radiating courses, except the external faces, which are horizontal, the whole being well bonded together: the total quantity of masonry is 80,000 cubic feet. The method of forming the foundations, as well as of the cofferdams and centre, was given in detail; and it was stated that the total cost of the bridge was only 7250L.—Mr. G. Rennie made some clear and concise remarks on the ancient arches of which traces have been discovered by the recent researches of travellers, alluding to Perrings account of ancient arches discovered at Thebes, the bricks of which bore the name of Sesostris, which would carry back the knowledge of the arch to a period of upwards of three thousand years. He noticed, also, the size of the stone lintel among the Greeks, the Etruscan arches found in Italy, and also the more modern, but very bold, arches still remaining in Italy, Portugal, and Spain.—A paper, by Mr. F. Nash, was then read, describing a new kind of girder, composed of a number of diagonal bars of wrought-iron, abutting against each other, with cast-iron transoms; these latter supporting the pressure, and the former the tension. This mode of construction has been recently introduced in France for bridges; and the paper, after describing a number of preliminary experiments on small girders, gave the details of the proofs to which four girders placed side by side, with a bearing of 74 feet 8 inches, had been subjected, by order of M. Teste, the Minister of Public Works, Paris. From this it appeared, that with a load of 62 tons the deflexion in the cen-

tre was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch; and that the girders resumed their original position [?] on the weight being removed, after bearing it for a month. In order to test the effect of a sudden shock, a cart loaded with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  tons of iron was caused to break down suddenly in the centre of the bridge, without producing any prejudicial effect beyond crushing the flooring-planks. The weight of these four girders was stated to be  $20\frac{1}{2}$  tons.

*March 12.*—The president in the chair. The first paper read was an "Account of the harbour of Pulteney town (Wick Caithness, N.B.)." This harbour was designed by Mr. Telford, for the British Fisheries Society, in 1803, and the first part of the works were executed between 1804 and 1811 by Mr. Burn, at an expense of 16,400L. The success of the herring fishery, and the consequent increase of the shipping frequenting the port, rendered a more extensive harbour essential, and, in 1823, other plans, which received the approval of Mr. Telford, were carried into effect by Mr. Bremner. The various extensions of the work were given in great detail, with the ingenious methods employed in their execution; as also the account of the devastation caused by the sudden inroad of the sea upon the unfinished work of the pier, when one hundred feet in length of the pier-head was swept away in one tide, besides doing much damage to the other parts of the works. The ruined works were secured for the remainder of that year by binding them together with chain cables, and in the succeeding summer the works were completed, and have stood securely ever since. Some interesting observations were made as to the relative action of the waves upon long and short slopes of the sea-faces of piers, and the author's experience evidently leads him to prefer a slope of about one to one for works which are exposed to a heavy sea. The various ingenious methods adopted by the author, for conquering the difficulties before him, excited great interest, which was kept up by the next paper, also by Mr. Bremner; it was a "Description of casks used in floating large stones for building sea-walls in deep water." These casks, which were strongly built of fir-staves, hooped externally with iron, and supported inside by radiating bars, like the spokes of a wheel, were used, instead of crane barges, for conveying stones of thirty to forty tons weight, for securing the foot of the sea-walls of Banff harbour, which had failed. Two of these casks, of 445 feet cube each, were used to convey stones of thirty tons weight, by passing the two chain cables, which were round them, through the eyes of the lewis, which were fixed in the stones at low water, at which time the chains being hauled down tight, when the tide flowed the buoyancy of the casks floated the stones, and they were towed by a boat over the place where the stone was intended to be deposited, —the lashing being cut away, the casks were let go, and the stone fell into its seat. This method was found to succeed perfectly, in weather that would have destroyed any crane-barges, and the works of Banff harbour were thus secured from further degradation, and were subsequently entirely restored at a comparatively small cost. The drawings and enlarged diagrams gave fully the details of this method of working.

The papers announced to be read at the next meeting were:—"Account of the landslip in Ashley cutting on the Great Western Railway," by J. G. Thomson; "Description of an hydraulic traversing frame at the Bristol terminus of the Great Western Railway," by A. J. Dodson.

*An Experiment in Proof of the Latent Light in Mercury.* By Professor Möser.—Iodise a silver plate, and then heat it over a common spirit-lamp for about a minute. The iodide of silver first becomes darker, and then milk white. This white substance is very sensitive to light, and in this respect little inferior to any known. By exposure to light, and indeed by all of its colours, it is converted into a steel-grey. The plate must, therefore, be protected from the direct light of the sky, and the experiment carried on in the back part of the room. When cold it is placed behind a cut-out screen, which may be at the distance of a line from the plate over mercury which is heated to 60° R. and the temperature allowed to fall to 30°. When the plate is now removed, it has become steel-grey wherever the vapour of mercury had access, and in this manner the image of the aperture of the screen is obtained precisely as if ordinary light had fallen on to the plate. Although the condensed vapour of mercury is white, yet the action of its latent light preponderates in this case and determines the colouring. Heat acts no part here, for it has not the power of rendering the white substance steel-grey; nor can there be any question of chemical rays with this white substance, for all the rays of the spectrum convert it into steel-grey.—*Phil. Mag.*

## PARIS LETTER.

Paris, March 9, 1844.

*Academy of Sciences:* sitting of 4th March.—The report of MM. Pelouze and Boussingault on a memoir of M. Casaseca's researches on the composition of the sugar-cane, cultivated in the Havannah, was read. The analyses were made by the author at the place of growth, and, contrasted with those of M. Peligot, exhibit a much higher per centage of woody matter. Whilst those of the latter give about ten per cent for the cane of Taiti, the results of M. Casaseca shew sixteen and a half per cent for the cane *de la tierra*; and by some analyses twenty-five to thirty per cent is rendered probable.

M. E. Becquerel forwarded his experimental researches on the laws of electro-chemical decomposition, which lead to results differing in some respects from those of Faraday by which he established the deposition of metal at the negative pole from metallic solutions, such as the nitrates of copper, lead, &c., to be equivalent to the current of electricity passing through them. This law, it is asserted, is not true in all cases, and does not include the effects of decomposition on a great number of combinations. Thus in regard to the hypo-nitrite of lead, twice and thrice as much lead is deposited at the negative pole, as in the case of the nitrate, by the same current.

M. E. Becquerel has examined the decomposing action of electricity on a series of bodies—all the metallic chlorides, the acetates and hypo-nitrites of lead, &c. The results appear to him to justify the following proposition: When a binary or ternary combination undergoes decomposition by electricity, it is effected in such proportion that for every equivalent of electricity (a quantity necessary for the decomposition of an equivalent of water) an equivalent of the electro-negative element, or, at least, of a compound which plays the part of acid in the combination, is borne to the positive pole, and a corresponding quantity of the electro-positive element, or that which behaves as base, is carried to the negative pole. And again; first, when an equivalent of a body, either simple or compound, combines with one or more equi-

valents of another body, if the first plays the part of acid, the disengagement of electricity resulting from their chemical action is always an equivalent of electricity; second, if an equivalent of a body, such as oxygen, is already combined with another which acts as base, and it again unites with an equivalent of oxygen to form a deutoxide, this second action also disengages an equivalent of electricity.

*French Antiquarian Intelligence.*—M. Boissére, the learned German archaeologist, whose magnificent work on the cathedral of Cologne is well known, has lately published at Munich and Stuttgart a French edition of his work on the churches and mediæval monuments of the Rhine.—A work on the English *Doomsday Book* and the *Liber de Winton* has been lately published in French at Caen by two Norman antiquarians.—The Archaeological Committee of Narbonne has been making excavations in search of Roman antiquities in that city. Some cellars, one of them containing a wall of Roman construction, have been recently brought to light by these means.—Under the church of St. Marc at Rome, as one of the Italian correspondents of the Comité Historique writes, there have been lately discovered some catacombs which served as confessionals to that church in very remote periods. The walls of the catacombs are covered with a kind of stucco, believed not to have been used after the third century, painted with figures of Christ, the Virgin, St. Peter, St. Paul, and other saints. This stucco is very similar to that found at Pompeii and Herculaneum. His Holiness has ordered Father Marchi, an eminent antiquary, to draw up an account of these catacombs. A discussion on the subject of this discovery has taken place in the Comité; in the course of which M. Delecluze stated that the form of confessionals, as now found in Catholic churches, did not appear to be of older date than the seventeenth century. It was suggested that careful search should be made for any such articles of ecclesiastical furniture as might appear older than that period.—A work by M. De la Saussaye, *Numismatique de la Gaule Narbonnaise*, is well spoken of: it has been awarded a prize by the Institute.

Curious extracts from two rituals, dating from A.D. 1205, and formerly belonging to the chapter of the cathedral at Soissons and the abbey of Barbeau, have been communicated to the Comité. They concern, principally, the forms of marriage used in that church at that epoch. On the day of espousal, the priest received the bride and bridegroom under the porch of the church, and there published the banns for the third and last time, after having previously given his blessing to the wedding-ring. He then gave the ring to the bridegroom, who put it on the thumb of the bride's right hand, saying after the priest, *In nomine Patris*. He then put it on the fore-finger, adding *et Filii*; and then on the middle finger, with the words *et Spiritus Sancti*. The priest then taking the bridegroom with his right hand, and the bride with his left, led them into church; and mass, with the sacrament of marriage, was duly celebrated. The priest afterwards led the newly married couple home; and when at the door of their residence, gave his blessing to some bread and wine, which he afterwards presented to them for food. In the evening he went to the nuptial chamber, and gave his blessing to the bed; then incensed it; and then gave his blessing to the bride and bridegroom *sedentes vel jacentes in lecto*. The form of benediction is sufficiently curious to merit transcription:

"Benedic, Domine, adolescentulos istos. Sicut benedixisti Tobiam et Saram, filiam Raguelis, ita benedicere eos digneris, ut in tua voluntate permaneant, senescant et multiplicentur in longitudinem dierum."

Here the priest gave a pilgrim's scrip to the bridegroom, and added:

"In nomine Domini nostri Jesu Christi hanc pergam accipe, habitu peregrinations tunc, ut bene castigatus, et bene salvus atque emendatus, perverne meum regnum ad limina beatorum apostolorum Petri et Pauli, et aliorum sanctorum quo pergerem cupisti; et, peracto itinere tuo, ad nos incolumis reverti merearis, per Dominum nostrum."

The priest next gave a pilgrim's staff to the bridegroom; and thus terminated the benediction:

"Accipe hunc baculum, sustentationem itineris, ac laboris, et peregrinations tunc, et devincere valeas omnes ceteras inimici, et perverne secundus ad limina beatorum apostolorum Petri et Pauli, et aliorum sanctorum quo pergerem cupisti; et, peracto itinere, ac etiam Dominum cursu, ad nos reverteris cum gaudio, per Dominum nostrum."

## LITERARY AND LEARNED.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, March 7.—The following degrees were conferred:—

*Masters of Arts.*—J. Pell, Exeter College, grand compounder; the Hon. E. F. L. Gower, Christ Ch.; H. King, scholar of Wadham College; Rev. G. Prystay, A. W. Warde, New Inn Hall.

*Bachelor of Arts.*—P. A. Day, New Inn Hall.

OXFORD, March 6.—The following degrees were conferred:—

*Masters of Arts.*—R. W. Essington, R. Williams, King's College; W. Burdett, Queen's College.

*Bachelors of Arts.*—H. Mann, Trinity College; W. Ager, St. John's College; J. P. Jones, T. C. Orion, St. Catherine's Hall; R. W. Bell, Emmanuel College. *D.D. ad eundem.*—Rev. T. Drew, Trin. Coll., Dublin.

## EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION.

Cairo, 4th Feb., 1844.

ACCORDING to the latest accounts, Dr. Lepsius has been detained for nearly these two months at Korúsko for want of camels; and Heaven knows when he will be able to proceed on his interesting journey to Meroë.

## Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution.

—A lecture was recently delivered in this institution by Mr. L. S. F. Buckingham, purporting to be the first of two upon the life and character of Charles I. It was merely introductory to the main subject. The lecturer commenced with a lengthy and sufficiently intelligible account of some important points in the Anglo-Saxon government; he sketched with some ability the characters of James I. and the Duke of Buckingham; and concluded with a brief summary of the circumstances under which Charles ascended the throne. Mr. L. Buckingham is a young man; as a lecturer he is promising, yet withal inexpert, immature. On this occasion he introduced much that was trite and commonplace, and his style was somewhat feeble and diffuse. His plan appears to us to have been disproportionate, giving too great a prominence to a point bearing very remotely upon the main subject. We are alluding to his long discussion upon the ancient government of this country. Irrespective of its disproportion, this arrangement was peculiarly unfortunate. It requires a somewhat advanced student to feel an interest in groping amidst the darkness of the middle ages. In a mixed assembly, like the one Mr. L. Buckingham was addressing, he could hardly expect to find many of this class. The majority would care little about the nature of the wittenagemot, and about allodial and feudal tenures. They would trace no connexion between them and the avowed aim of the lecture. They would be disappointed and dissatisfied. A young aspirer for literary fame commonly

endeavours to grasp too wide a field. Such appears to have been the case with Mr. L. Buckingham. This error, under the circumstances, is a venial one; it ought to be looked upon most leniently; it can occur only to mind somewhat comprehensive; it shews a power of conception, though without a corresponding power of execution. Confident in untried strength, an individual of this character takes his stand, and erects his starting-post at the most remote and elevated point within his range; he surveys, or imagines he surveys, the country he must travel through, and carefully notes the path that leads directly to the goal. But when he descends from the elevation he becomes embarrassed: he fails to distinguish the straight road from the numerous circuitous ones; beautiful scenery, lakes and groves, green banks and murmuring streams, to the right and to the left, invite him from his chief purpose; he has not learned to resist their seductions; he lingers amongst them, wasting his energies; he wanders farther and farther from the straight course, and if he be ever found in it again, he appears to have reached it rather by some unobservedfeat of jugglery than by any natural process. The goal is probably never attained. But the failure is rarely obvious to himself, or to the bulk of his followers; he has confused his own mind and theirs; when time relieves them from the dilemma, both the guide and the guided wonder where they have been, and are as thankful for their delivery as were Christian and Hopeful for their escape from Doubting Castle.

We would by no means apply these remarks in their full extent to Mr. L. Buckingham. But we would caution him, in all good feeling, against errors from which he is not wholly free — errors which are incompatible with literary excellence. We flatter ourselves that this candid avowal of our opinion may be useful to him. We shall be sorry if our remarks give him pain; nothing can be farther from our intention; we feel interested in him, and heartily wish him well.\*

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

*Monday.*—Statistical, 8 P.M.; British Architects, 8 P.M.; Chemical, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.

*Tuesday.*—Linnean, 8 P.M.; Horticultural, 3 P.M.; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.

*Wednesday.*—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.; Geological, 8½ P.M.; London Institution, 7 P.M.; Microscopical, 8 P.M.

*Thursday.*—Royal, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.

*Friday.*—Royal Institution, 8½ P.M.; Philological, 8 P.M.

*Saturday.*—Royal Botanic, 4 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

#### FINE ARTS.

*Napoleon and his Son.* Painted by Sleubon, on Stone by Sebbers. London, D. Bogue. With a great mass of white and little of colour in it, and presenting to our minds an incon-

\* We are more inclined to step a little out of our way in reporting this lecture, because the lecturer has just addressed to us a well-founded reclamation against a portion of our notice of his *Memoirs of Mary Queen of Scots*. In the review of Miss Costello, last Saturday, a passage of a letter was quoted from her as being of deep interest, which letter it appears was passed over in Mr. Buckingham's work, where it originally appeared; and the same objection is made to our mentioning the portrait of Mary in the latter and not in the former case. We hasten to make the amende desired by Mr. Buckingham, the clever son of a clever sire, who is pursuing an honourable course likely to raise him to literary distinction; but we can hardly call Miss Costello a "copyist," seeing that she could not have had time, between the publication of Mr. Buckingham's work and her own, to copy from him.—*Ed. L. G.*

gruous idea, we have no doubt but this lithograph will be much sought by collectors in general, and admirers of Napoleon in particular. He is seated on a sofa, with a book in his hand, and his infant son stretched asleep on the lower part, with his head in his father's lap. The countenance of Napoleon is expressive of meditative thoughtfulness; but yet he is in uniform, and we cannot reconcile the notion of the stern soldier with the slumbering innocence and peacefulness of childhood. The whole is of gentle character, but without much interest.

*Raffaelle and the Fornarina.* Painted by Sir W. Callcott. Engraved by Lumb Stocks. Art-Union of London.

A CHARMING piece of seduction for the subscribers of the London association. The composition of Sir W. Callcott breathes of fine art and Italy. Raffaelle is the beau ideal of painting; an impersonation of it which might be received as an abstract imagining. And the Fornarina is lovely, most classical in feature, and modest in downcast expression. The brow is not lofty—all the rest is perfect. The draping is treated with great skill and effect, and the whole design worthy of the mind whence it emanated, and the masterly hand by which it was executed. We must also bear testimony to the able style of Mr. Stocks' engraving.

*Westminster Abbey and Bridge. Debarkation on Lord Mayor's Day.* Painted by D. Roberts. Engraved by E. Goodall.

*St. Paul's and the Civic Procession.* Idem. THESE are plates for the subscribers of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Art-Union for 1844; and wonderful temptations they are. Who but D. Roberts could have so beautified, almost idealized, these public buildings, and peopled the scene above and below with such spirited and admirable groupings? Even the formal state-coaches look picturesque, with their four cocked-hatted footmen behind, and their lusty coachmen before. The balconies lined with spectators, the banners waving, the house-tops shouting, throngs of pedestrians and horsemen, the silver Thames and the gorgeous barge, and the noble forms of the great public edifices towering above all, and giving importance to the contour, constitute altogether two charming prints worthy of the genius of the artist and the taste of the Unionist directors, whoever they are.

#### SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

*Mr. Murchison's Conversazione,* as president of the Royal Geographical Society, on Wednesday, was a brilliant one; and rendered unusually attractive by the addition of lady-visitors to the philosophic circle. There were a number of titled dames, and not a few of British beauties. Among those distinguished for literature, Miss Edgeworth might be particularised: the aged author received marked attentions throughout the evening. It would require a long list to name all the distinguished noblemen, foreign ministers, and men of science and letters, who graced the assembly: the rooms were literally crowded with them. Some remarkable ancient maps were exhibited, displaying the notions geographers entertained about the great globe itself five hundred years ago. On the landing-place was the unique and magnificent vase presented by the Emperor of Russia to Mr. Murchison, which was greatly admired (for a description of it, see *Lit. Gaz.*, No. 1387, in August last). The refreshment-room below was liberally supplied with wines, ices, coffee, and all the other *et ceteras* so agreeable to "crowded houses."

#### AFRICAN DISCOVERY.

SINCE the additional information obtained by Beke and Harris concerning the great river of eastern Africa called the Go-jub, Lieut. Christopher has discovered a river to which he has given the name of Haines, after the resident at Aden, and which appears with the Jub to be one of the mouths of the Go-jub. The Haines river presents the peculiarity of only approaching the sea within ten miles, but is supposed to reach it by infiltration. It was traced for a distance of 130 miles, and found to increase in width and depth. The natives asserted that it continued to do so for 400 miles further. It varied from 200 to 300 feet in breadth, and from 13 to 60 in depth; so that it was well adapted for steam navigation. The stream was clear, winding, and the banks richly cultivated. The natives were also civil and obliging. Capt. Haines has ordered further explorations of this remarkable river.

There is a party of Englishmen supposed to be on their way towards the sources of the White Nile—Mr. Parkyns and two friends, who left Jidda last year for Gondar, with the intention of passing by the lake of Dembea, and southward through the Galla country to the sources of the White River. It was Mr. Parkyns' intention, if he succeeded thus far, to try the route by Darfur and the Niger. This would carry a line across Central Africa.

Mr. Cooley, in his edition of *Larcher's Herodotus*, just published, says, that it is now proved beyond controversy that the river called Abai, in Abyssinia, and lower down the Bahr-el Azrek, or Blue River, is the true Nile. But we are not at all satisfied of this fact. It involves the question whether we are to consider as the main branch of the river the principal or largest tributary, or that which has the most remote sources. Physical geographers are pretty generally agreed in considering the most distant spring that can be discovered as the source of a river. Mr. Cooley makes his whole argument depend upon the larger volume of the Blue River. The Blue River is the Nile of Bruce, the sources of which were discovered before that traveller's time by the Jesuits. The sources of the White River have not yet been discovered; but there appears little doubt, from their having been traced as far as lat. 4° 42' N., that they are more remote than those of the Blue Nile.

The Blue River is the same as the Nile of Ptolemy does not prove that it is the true Nile, but only that it was the Nile known to the Alexandrian geographer. It is well known that Ptolemy's sources of the Halys were far removed from the real sources.

The establishment of a British vice-consulate at Murzuk is expected to forward the interests of geography in a marked degree. Nearly all Africa will soon be open from that quarter; and not only is a most extensive trade said to be available from the same station, but intercourse and commerce are judiciously looked to as promising to better the condition of the natives, and extend the blessings of civilisation.

#### BIOGRAPHY.

*Sir Henry Halford.*—This eminent physician died on Saturday last. He had been for several months in declining health. His original name was Vaughan, the son of Dr. Vaughan, of Leicester, and he took the name of Halford in consequence of succeeding to the large property of his maternal great uncle, Sir C. Halford, of Wislow, in Leicestershire. He was born on the 2d of October, 1766, and was educated

at Rugby School and Christchurch, Oxford. He afterwards studied medicine at Edinburgh, and commenced practice, in conjunction with his father, at Leicester. In 1792 or 1793 he settled in London, and rose with wonderfully rapid steps to the very first practice. In 1820 he was elected president of the College of Physicians, and remained in that office until his death, having been re-elected every year for nearly a quarter of a century. Sir H. Halford was physician to four successive sovereigns, three of whom he attended in their last illnesses, and was held in the highest regard by every member of the family of George III., by whom he was created a baronet. He was also a Knight Grand Cross of Hanover, a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Literature (on the council of which he sat several years), and of several other literary and scientific bodies, trustee of Rugby School, &c. He married a daughter of John, eleventh Lord St. John, of Bletsow, by whom he has left one son and one daughter; the former of whom has been for some years member for South Leicestershire. Sir Henry was a man of fine literary tastes and attainments; and, indeed, delighted in literary pursuits. His manners were peculiarly agreeable; and few individuals ever graced public and private life with more of honour and affectionate attachment.

*John Morice, Esq., F.S.A., M.R.S.L., &c.*—We have also this week to record the loss of another accomplished member of the Royal Society of Literature, and one frequently on its council, in common meeting with Sir H. Halford. John Morice, Esq., of West Wickham, Kent, died on the 10th inst., in Gower Street, at an advanced age. He was an ardent lover of literature, and had collected a library of great interest and value.

#### ORIGINAL POETRY.

##### AN INCIDENT AFTER THE BATTLE OF PUNNIAR.

"Night closed upon the combatants before there was time to remove the wounded from the field of battle, upon which upwards of 200 men were unavoidably left. During the night the enemy's soldiery came among the wounded men, and administered such relief to them as it was in their power to afford, alleging as a reason both for their act of humanity and for the refusal (which occurred in more than one instance, where five gold mohurs were offered for service of life) to receive any remuneration, that they were of the same caste and creed, and although fighting under different masters, could not disregard the stronger claim upon them."

NIGHT croucheth on the battle field;  
The gory dews bathe grass and flower;  
Dead eyes unnatural brightness yield  
To yon grey moon, now bending o'er  
Where victory, half repentant, stands  
And wrings the blood-drops from her hands.  
  
Silence and darkness,—neath the sun  
The frenzied charge, the hurrying fight,  
The clashing steel, the thunderous gun,  
Made insupportable the light,—  
Now sulphurous fumes, like mists from hell,  
Shroud dead and wounded where they fell.  
  
Hush! whispering tongues and footsteps tread,  
And lights that fit along the plain!  
Why come they here? To rob the dead?  
To stife life's last gasping pain,  
And scare the soul whose flickering ray  
Reluctant hovers round the clay?  
  
It is the foe!—their torches flare  
Across each heap of prostrate forms;  
Their eyes seek out with pitying care  
Where still the life some bosom warms—  
Where not too late comes Rajpoot aid,  
To close the gash of Rajpoot blade!  
  
Ripe fruits and soothing herbs they bring,  
With plantain-leaves they wrap the sore,  
Cool water from the mountain-spring  
On parched lip and brow they pour;  
And, sweetest to the sufferer's ear,  
Kind tones and sympathy sincere.

"Away with gold! 'tis not for hire  
We haste to help you in your need;  
Tis that we own one heavenly Sire,  
A common caste, one holy creed,  
Ne'er from that brotherhood to swerve,  
Though warring lords on earth we serve!"

Saw ever war so great a foe?  
So generous as so brave a band?  
How learn'd ye that divinest glow  
Of heart, unquench'd by battle's hand?  
Our Christian selfishness ye shame;  
Yours is the spirit, ours the name!

E. A. H. O.

#### THE DRAMA.

*Her Majesty's Theatre* opened on Saturday with the frivolous yet dull opera of *Adelia*—to hear which the house was more full than fashionable. Signor Corelli made his *début* as *Olivier*, and was well received. As a *primo tenore* we think it impossible that he can make a stand, though he is a very pleasing singer. His voice does not display much compass, but is a level unambitious organ, little modulated by execution or expression, or varied by action. All the while he was chanting we could not help repeating to ourselves from the poet, "the even tenor of his way," which was a sort of unintended pun. Taste without passion characterised his whole effort. If aught could have redeemed the flatness of the opera, it would have been the delicious performance of Persiani. Her "Ah! non è tal nome" was perfection; and the finale so pure, so brilliant, so gracefully embellished, like a golden-linked chain with gems, that the curtain fell to a burst of plaudits. Of the other characters, Arnold, F. Lablache, and Carlo, Giubilei, we can not say aught in praise: they seemed to have nothing out of which to produce any thing.

The national anthem was sung by the principal vocalists; and it was amusing to hear the Italian pronunciation bid "Go shave our noble queen—go shave de queen."

The new ballet, *La Esmeralda*, is a capital one—full of life, admirably grouped, the business never flagging, the scenery excellent, and the dancing altogether of a delightful kind, and of Carlotta Grisi fascinating. In every part she succeeded in expressing the emotion of the moment—she was compassionate, she was playful, she was sad, she was coquettish, she was frightened, she was loving, she was despairing, she was devoted—we have seldom, indeed, seen so much of the language of looks and motion. Throughout she was ably supported by Perrot, the author of the ballet; by Adelaide Fras (q. Fraser), a *débutante* of great promise from Florence; by Schefre and Plunket, who has judiciously abandoned her French name of Planquet for her native Irish (even though it were foreign and alien), and wonderfully improved besides; by Gosselin as *Frollo*, and Coulon as *Quasimodo*. The music is pretty, and the piece must be popular.

*Dury Lane*.—M. Duprez has repeated his part in *William Tell* three times a week, to full houses, and with distinguished applause. In our opinion his success would have been greater had not the public expectation been too highly excited before he made his appearance amongst us. Mark the contrast with Fornasari, unproclaimed, and at once taking his true first-rate position. There can be no more fatal mistake than over-puffing; for, when it does fail, it is a complete break-down.

*Princess's*.—*Leola, or the May-day Bride*, a pretty romantic ballet, has been produced with success. It is handsomely got up, and the scenery and dresses appropriate, showy, and picturesque. Miss Ballin, Miss Charlton, and Mr. Gilbert are the principal dancers: the bal-

let is of agreeable length, and generally pleasing. *Gone to Texas*, a new farce admirably played by the Keeleys, is also a successful novelty.

*The French Plays*.—Achard's second engagement having closed, this week has been ushered in by the *ré-entrée* of Madame Albert, who made so favourable an impression upon her first coming amongst us last season. She met with an enthusiastic reception on Monday evening, and was evidently pleased to be once more at home with her English audience. We regret she chose to appear in a new piece, *La Camargo*, which possesses nothing peculiar to excite admiration. She nevertheless danced and sang most agreeably, and received a hearty encore in the *chansonnette*, "Je suis danseuse de l'opéra;" but it was not till the after-piece, *Georgelle*, that all the joyous exuberance, liveliness, and engaging naïveté of Madame Albert, and by which we were so delighted last season, once more burst upon us, and with more than former power; she rioted in the fulness of her skill to carry the spectators where and when she pleased, and concluded a performance of the most sportive description amidst overwhelming plaudits.

*Mothers and Daughters*.—Our readers will remember the strange way in which this successful comedy was "burked" on the stage; and, remembering the injury thus done to a very able author, will rejoice with us to learn that, at length, the *amende*, as far as it could be made, has been made by the manager, and that a new edition of the play is forthcoming, with a preface containing much matter that will be very curious to all who feel an interest in the drama. Since Colman's introduction to the *Iron Chest* there has, as we hear, been no such exposition in dramatic affairs.

#### VARIETIES.

*Cure of Stammering*.—Mr. Hunt's return to town for the season has been duly announced; and it gives us pleasure (having in the first instance, and frequently since, borne testimony to his simple but extraordinary cures) to notice that his practice has already been signalled in a remarkable case in the family of a late eminent public functionary and a dearly esteemed friend of ours. The mother of the pupil, a lady of title, has thus touchingly expressed herself to Mr. Hunt:—"It is quite impossible for me to write what I feel about my child. You have been the instrument chosen by God to effect my cure: my praises are to him; my warmest thanks to you. He left me almost unable to articulate a perfect sound: he is returned with even a peculiar flow of language." We offer no excuse for inserting such matters as these, as we fear no misconstruction of motive; and our hope is, that they will induce numbers of the suffering to follow the example, and be grateful, as many have been, to us for pointing the way to their relief.

*The Literary Fund* held its annual meeting on Wednesday, when, we understand, all the officers, &c., were re-elected.

*Dr. Wolff's Mission*.—Capt. Grover has heard from Dr. Wolff, Tabriz, Jan. 19, where he had been for six days, and was on the eve of leaving. A Persian merchant had declared that our countrymen were in prison twelve months ago; and the missionary expresses a favourable hope, founded on this testimony.

*Finch Lane*.—Many of the principal people of the City are desirous to widen the area of the Royal Exchange in this direction; but the property belongs to Magdalen College, and they set an immense value upon it—little short of a *plum*, as we hear.

*City of London School.*—Mr. Thomas Tegg, the publisher, having some time since been fined 400*l.* for not serving the office of sheriff, the corporation devoted the amount towards the establishment of an exhibition in one of the universities for the benefit of pupils of the city school, and to be designated "the Tegg scholarship." To this Mr. Tegg has generously added another 100*l.*, and presented the school library with a valuable collection of books.

*Mr. Adams' Orrery.*—The Lyceum is admirably suited in size for Mr. Adams' annual popular lecture, and for the exhibition of his beautiful orrery. We warmly recommend that none of our young friends will let slip the present opportunity of instructive amusement.

The Scotch Mareschal College, Aberdeen, must this year go without a rector, for the Irish reason of having elected two! The Marquis of Breadalbane and the Marquis of Bute were equal on the poll.

### LITERARY NOVELTIES.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Conversations on Language for Children, by Mrs. Marcer, 4*s.* 6*d.* cloth.—Elementary Treatise on Mechanics, by A. S. Hart, LL.D., 8vo, 6*s.* 6*d.*—Memoir of Mrs. Margaret Wilson, of the Scottish Mission, Bombay, by J. Wilson, D.D., 4th edit. post 8vo, 7*s.* 6*d.*—The Principal Offices of the Brain, and other Centres, by Joseph Swan, 8vo, 1*s.*—The Barons' War, including the Battle of Lewes and Evesham, by W. H. Blaauw, sm. 4to, 15*s.*—Journal of a Wanderer: a Residence in India and Six Weeks in North America, 4*s.*—A Survey of the Holy Land, by J. T. Bannister, p.-8vo, 10*s.* 6*d.*; demy 8vo, 14*s.*—Peregrine Pulteney, or Life in India, 3 vols. post 8vo, 14*s.* 11*s.* 6*d.*—Guide to Lent, 7*s.*—C. Darwin's Geological Observations on the Volcanic Islands, 8vo, 10*s.* 6*d.*—C. W. Johnson on Fertilisers, new edit. 8vo, 16*s.*—The Sayings of the Great Forty Days: Five Sermons, by the Rev. G. Moberly, 8vo, 4*s.* 6*d.*—Ireland and its Rulers since 1829, Part II. post 8vo, 10*s.* 6*d.*—Richelieu in Love; an Historical Comedy, 8vo, 4*s.* 6*d.*—London, edited by C. Knight, Vol. VI. (completion), royal 8vo, 10*s.* 6*d.*—Grammar of the German Language, by Dr. G. Kombt, 12mo, 5*s.*—Palm-Leaves, by R. M. Milnes, fep, 5*s.*—Mortgage Precedents, by Rolla Rouse, 12mo, 8*s.*—Elements of Church-History, by D. Welsh, D.D., Vol. I. 8vo, 12*s.*—Letters from America, by J. R. Godley, 2*v.* post 8vo, 16*s.*—Minor Poems of Schiller, by J. H. Merivale, fep, 7*s.*—Zarefa; a Tale, and other Poems, fep, 6*s.*—Aldine Poets, Vols. 44-46; Poems of Churchill, 3 vols. fep, 15*s.*—King Alfred: a Poem, by J. Fitchett, edited by R. Roseoe, 6 vols. 8vo, 3*s.* 3*d.*—Rask's Icelandic Grammar, by Dasent, 8vo, 7*s.* 6*d.*—Dissertation on the Metre of Homer, by T. S. Brandreth, 8vo, 6*s.*—The Sacrament of Baptism, by the Rev. W. K. Tweedie, 13mo, 1*s.* 6*d.*—Self-Sacrifice, or the Chancellor's Chaplain, fep, 7*s.*—Short Treatise on the Theory of the English Church, by the Rev. W. Gresley, 1*s.* 6*d.*—Western Africa, its Condition, &c., by D. J. East, fep, 5*s.*—Rev. E. Bickersteth's Christian Student, 4th edit. fep, 7*s.*

#### DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1844.	h. m. s.	1844.	h. m. s.
Mar. 16 . . . 12 8 44 3	Mar. 20 . . . 12 7 33 3		
17 . . . 8 26 8	21 . . . 7 15 2		
18 . . . 8 9 1	22 . . . 6 56 9		
19 . . . 7 51 3			

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are sorry to say that an accident prevents us from publishing our Musical Review this week.

We agree with "Humbug," that, after the exposures which have taken place, the lending of their rooms and names by the Marylebone and Southwark Institutions for the *clatavert* collision of the pseudomeric literature must be very injurious to their character for usefulness.

We have no vocation to take a part in the rivalry between the parties for carrying on intercommunication between England and Ireland by way of Holyhead, or the North Wales' St. George's Harbour between the two Ormes' Heads.

ELATA.—In our first review of last *Literary Gazette*, in the second paragraph, the sense would lead the reader to observe that the word "former" used a second time should have been "latter." After "disappointed" in the notice of *Sculptured Statues*, col. iii. p. 164, insert "artists."

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

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